



THE



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First division clubs pull out of Football League



By PETER BALL

THE 103-year-old structure of the Football League collapsed yesterday when the 22 first division clubs handed in their notice of resignation. Their action, on the eve of the English season's opening today, leaves the league without a functioning management committee.

The clubs intend to join a new premier league run by the Football Association, the game's overall governing body in England, after a decision in the High Court in July permitting the FA to set up its own league.

The Football League however, intends to appeal against

the High Court decision in an attempt to enforce a three-year notice period. The clubs and Graham Kelly, the chief executive of the FA, hope to go ahead next season, making this the League's last season as the game's flagship in England.

The appeal court action, if it takes place, may not be the only threat to the breakaway league, which is supported by the "big five" clubs - Arsenal, Everton, Liverpool, Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur - and the other first division clubs but vigorously opposed by the second, third and fourth division clubs.

The Professional Foot-

ballers Association (PFA), whose chief executive Gordon Taylor played a decisive part in thwarting earlier attempts to set up a super league by the leading clubs, has declared that it will defend the integrity of the league, with the chairman, Brian Marwood, of Sheffield United this week refusing to discount strike action.

The players, and indeed the clubs left behind, fear that the breakaway league will take the lion's share of commercial revenue generated by the game at the expense of the rest, leaving a large number of clubs facing extinction. They also insist that they should be given a voice in the game's councils. The FA's unilateral

decision this week, taken without consultation, to impose mandatory drug tests has also run into PFA hostility.

Earlier this week it was questionable whether the league could start its season today after a dispute over regulation 10, which requires clubs to give three years' notice to withdraw from the league. The confusion was finally averted, and the games will go ahead today. The future, however, is uncertain. The first division's action followed a breakdown at this week's management committee meetings over whether to lodge an appeal against the High Court judgment. Having been adjourned

after seven hours in London on Monday, the meeting reconvened at Newcastle on Thursday, and broke up in the small hours of Friday morning when the three first division representatives, Ian Stott of Oldham, Maxwell Holmes of Leeds United, and Robert Chase of Norwich, walked out to prevent the committee devolving their functions onto a sub-committee as a way out of the impasse.

The most likely solution for the league in the short term seems to be an approach to the courts to appoint an administrator, with Arthur Sandford, the league's chief executive, taking the crucial decision to lodge an appeal, which has to

be done by the end of the month, two weeks before the first division clubs overturn regulation 10 at an extraordinary general meeting.

Yesterday Rick Parry, the chairman of the first division clubs, was scathing about the failure of the league to prepare for the superleague. "We have never wanted to be provocative," Parry insisted. "All we want to do is talk sensibly about the future." His pleading would have been more convincing had it not been that the three first division members present were acting under instruction.

Today's fixtures, page 31
Football preview, page 36

TODAY IN THE TIMES

RACEY FASTNET



All characters have the same smile, a sudden turning of the teeth and jerking back of the head as if in a mad, ferocious conviction with a Force 10 gale. Laura Thompson plays the Tart in *The Fastnet*, the annual upper-middle-class comedy. Page 31

SEA CHANGE



At the age of six Moura Lympny was dispatched, with a label round her neck, on the Ostend ferry. Three years and many Belgian nuns later she could play all 48 of Bach's preludes. Saturday review

TWO RONS



The best job in football? Big Ron had no doubt but Ron Aiko was not so sure. Simon Barnes on the ultimate manager Review

ALL THAT GLISTERS



Sarah Don and her husband were at the heart of the Designer Decade until the recession tarnished their image. Review

Loyalists' gunmen target key republicans

By RICHARD DUCE AND RICHARD FORD

LOYALIST paramilitaries are raising the stakes in Northern Ireland's raging sectarian war by abandoning random attacks on Catholics and instead targeting prominent republicans.

Two republicans were killed in separate shootings yesterday, taking to six the death toll in tit-for-tat attacks this week. Both had strong links with the republican movement: one was a leading member of an IRA splinter group, the other a member of Sinn Féin.

Earlier in the week, loyalists shot another Sinn Féin member and yesterday the Ulster Freedom Fighters gave a warning of more such attacks, saying: "While the Protestant genocide continues, the republican movement will pay a heavy price."

The latest wave of killings comes after a ten-week ceasefire observed by the loyalists during the talks on Peter

Brooke's initiative and had been predicted by the RUC chief constable, Hugh Ankersley. The scale of the violence has alarmed Protestant and Catholic church leaders, who yesterday united in an appeal for calm. But it was also seen as a sign of desperation on the part of the killers.

Cardinal Cahal Daly, Roman Catholic primate of all Ireland, said events had taken a very, very serious sectarian turn. "The objective is simply to keep the campaign going and to prove that they can keep the campaign going by keeping the campaign going. It isn't going anywhere," Archbishop Robin Eames, the Church of Ireland primate, described the killings as "a naked sectarianism".

The two churchmen were speaking on Radio Four's *The World at One* programme, where they were joined by Siamsa Mallon, deputy leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party. He said: "There is an air of desperation among the paramilitary groups. That desperation is springing mainly from the fact that they realise the futility of the violence that they have been using for this past 20 years."

Yesterday's victims were Martin O'Prey, a leading member of an IRA splinter group, and Thomas Donaghy, a Sinn Féin member with a record of terrorism. Mr O'Prey was killed and his daughter was injured when gunmen burst into his home in the Divis Flats area of Belfast. The UFF shot Mr Donaghy as he arrived for work at an oil fishery on the banks of the Bann in County Londonderry.

Mr O'Prey was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1985 after being convicted of the murder of an Ulster Defence Regiment soldier, but was later freed on appeal. Mr Donaghy was sentenced to 19 years in prison in September 1978 on several terrorist charges including IRA membership, attempting to murder members of the security forces, firearms offences and causing an explosion. He was released in July 1988.

Mr Donaghy's brother, Johnny, said that police had told him recently he would be dead before Christmas.

What killings? page 2



Check mates: Adrian and Harriet Hunt, aged 10 and 13, the brother and sister who made history by sharing the Under-14 title at the British Chess Championships, practising in their summer-house in Oxford for today's Lloyds Bank masters tournament in London. World chess, page 3

Bentley case to be reviewed after 39 years

By QUENTIN COWDREY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the oldest and most contentious files in Britain's unholly library of disputed court verdicts has been reopened by Kenneth Baker, the home secretary. He has asked police to review the case of Derek Bentley, hanged in 1952 for murdering a policeman.

To the delight of Bentley's supporters, whose struggle to clear his name began more than 20 years earlier than the birth of the Guildford Four and the Birmingham Six, the Metropolitan Police have begun scrutinising new evidence said to cast doubt on Bentley's conviction.

Campaigners now believe there is a real prospect that Bentley, a mentally retarded epileptic, will receive a posthumous pardon. The murder occurred in November 1952 when policemen caught Bentley and an accomplice, Christopher Craig, who were trying to break into a warehouse in Streatham, south London.

Although the fatal shot was fired by Craig, Bentley was said by the prosecution to have given him decisive encouragement by shouting: "Let him have it, Chris." Craig, who at 16 was

UN says no real barrier to release of hostages

By ALI JABER IN BEIRUT AND DAVID WATTS IN LONDON

THERE are no substantial barriers to the release of Western hostages in Lebanon according to Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations secretary-general.

"I have all reasons to believe that something may happen in a matter of weeks, but I cannot give any assurances. But I am very, very hopeful," he said in Lucerne.

Equally upbeat as he prepared to leave RAF Lyneham for a secret destination was John McCarthy, the former hostage, who has been receiving cards and letters from well-wishers at the rate of 300 a day. Mr McCarthy, who leaves today, said: "I am

feeling very well. People have sent me books and cards and I am very touched to receive them. It is great to be back. I am overwhelmed by the cards. They are from everybody and everywhere."

Asked what complications were hindering a solution, Señor Pérez de Cuéllar replied: "Nothing. I think we have to go into details about the deal we are discussing."

There was an equally positive signal from the Israelis last night when Uri Lubrani, their hostage negotiator, said that Israel was ready to make a "goodwill gesture" after it receives word on the fate of its seven servicemen missing in Lebanon. But Sheikh Muhammad Husain Fadlallah, believed to be an important influence on the hostage-takers, said in Beirut that the Americans were now the principle barrier to a deal and accused Washington of blocking mediation efforts.

Sheikh Fadlallah, who was one of the first clerics to call for the hostages' release, said at prayers in a Beirut mosque that nobody knew where the missing Israeli airmen, Ron Arad, was. He is believed by many to be the sole survivor of the seven.

Sheikh Fadlallah claimed that the Bush administration was "playing the same game which Reagan played in 1980 when he plotted with Iran to delay the release of the cm-

bassy hostages so that Carter would not have any political gain in the election campaign. The United States holds all the elements for a speedy solution to the hostages' crisis."

Compensation resisted, page 7



McCarthy: admiring a card yesterday

Inflation to hit 4% target

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

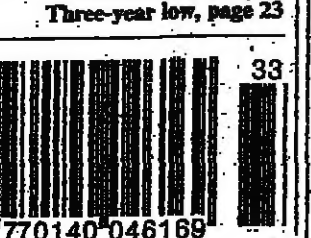
INFLATION seems well on course to hit the Treasury's year-end target of 4 per cent or less after falling to 3.5 per cent for the year to July from 5.8 per cent in each of the two previous months.

Food prices fell sharply in July and a half-point cut in mortgage rates took effect. But the government's own preferred measure of "underlying inflation", the retail price index excluding mortgage interest payments, remained much higher, at 6.8 per cent in July. This figure was down slightly on the 6.9 per cent reported in June but higher than May's 6.6 per cent.

The figures were exactly as expected and had little impact on markets but the FT-SE 100 index of shares managed to close 3.8 points up at a record 2621.0. Most analysts said that inflation was under control and prospects for further improvements were clear enough to remove any obstacles to lower interest rates.

But Francis Maude, the financial secretary to the Treasury, said: "The scope for further regular reductions in interest rates, of the sort we have seen on seven occasions in the last few months, must be less than it was." He added that future prosperity depended crucially on bringing down inflation, which had dropped dramatically.

Student loans, page 3
Three-year low, page 23



Taking the fearsome vampire bat to heart

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE vampire bat's fearsome image as an angel of disease and death might be soon transformed into one of mercy and healing, medical scientists said yesterday. A substance has been isolated in the animal's saliva which might be the key to a new generation of safer and more powerful drugs for preventing heart attacks.

Tests on rabbits have found that the substance, a protein used by vampires to keep the blood flowing while feeding on cattle and other warm blooded creatures, will dissolve clots, unclogging an artery twice as fast as conventional man-made drugs. Unlike many conventional drugs, which can trigger harmful side-effects such as internal bleeding, the bat protein "restricts its activity to the area of the clot" say the researchers. The findings,

reported in the journal *Circulation*, have been made by an American team at the laboratories of Merck, Sharp and Dohme in West Point, Pennsylvania.

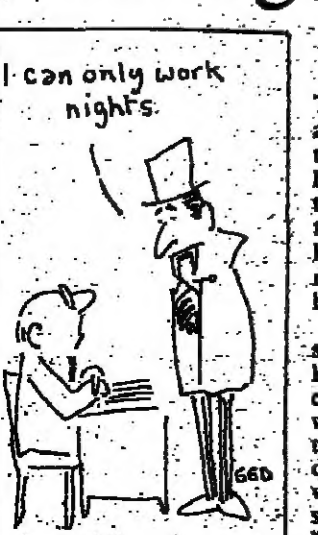
Roy Walker, the company's manager of scientific information, said that the findings from the two-year research programme were preliminary, but added that the substance appeared to have real promise. Harvesting the vampire bat's drug would not require the establishment of battery farms. The researchers have also isolated the gene controlling the anti-coagulant's production and have inserted it into bacteria which make the protein on demand.

Mr Walker said the company was also investigating similar substances produced in blood-sucking ticks and leeches as well as "other exotic sources". This marriage of biotechnology and naturally occurring pharmaceuticals from animals

and plants highlights the way many of the world's big and small drug companies are turning to nature for the treatments of the future.

A rival firm, Genetech, has announced that its scientists have isolated and mapped another potential anti-clot drug, kistria, from the venom of the Malaysian pit viper. Other researchers have been reporting a flurry of discoveries, including antibiotics in the skins of frogs and compounds found in spiders, wasps and snails' venom that might be useful in the treatment of strokes and dementias.

Some of these discoveries have been made by chance. Others have come from analysing plants and, as in the case of the vampire bat substance, observing animal behaviour. More recently, researchers have begun tapping the centuries-old knowledge of tribal doctors living in the world's rainforests.



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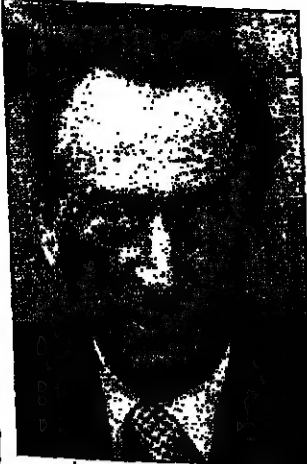
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Classic bid runs against deadline in radio licence battle



Hanson: his consortium submitted lowest bid

By MELINDA WHITSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

SPECULATION on who will emerge the victor in the drawn-out battle for the first independent national radio (INR) licence reached fever pitch yesterday as Classic FM rushed to prove it has secured the financial backing it needs to sustain its £626,000 bid.

The classical radio consortium has been given a final deadline of 10:30am on Monday to provide the Radio Authority with solid evidence that its bid is achievable after the failure of Showtime Radio, declared the winner last month with a £1.75 million bid, to find investors.

If Classic fails to assure the authority, the licence will automati-

cally be awarded to UK FM, Lord Hanson's easy-listening consortium, which submitted the lowest bid at about £350,000. It is thought unlikely that the authority will agree on Monday to Showtime's request for four more weeks to raise funds.

Peter Baldwin, the authority's chief executive, said: "We do not want another situation like the one we just had, or are having. Classic has to present us with a business plan that is achievable." He added that the non-pop FM licence could be awarded to UK FM as soon as Monday afternoon if members of the authority refuse to grant Classic an extension should it miss its deadline.

However, David Astor, Classic FM chairman, said last night he was confident his consortium would win.

"We have got our assurances," he said. Others in the industry were not so sure, saying late yesterday afternoon that they believed Classic was still wooing potential investors, such as Time Warner, the US media conglomerate which recently took a stake in TVS Entertainment, the independent television company.

Classic FM withdrew from the bidding a month before the May application deadline, saying a classical format was not commercially viable after Carlton Communications and The Daily Telegraph withdrew as shareholders. It returned to the fray only after GWR, the West Country commercial station, came in at the eleventh hour as Classic's largest shareholder. However GWR is now thought to have

reduced its stake, requiring the search for another shareholder. UK FM, backed by Radio Clyde and Scottish Television, said yesterday it had the money and all but one written reconfirmation, which will be signed on Monday when the investor returns from holiday.

Jimmy Gordon, chief executive of Radio Clyde, said: "I would be very surprised if either Showtime or Classic is granted an extension. They should not have bid in the first place if they did not have the money."

Richard Findlay, chief executive-designate of UK FM, added: "Everyone has had since January to raise money. It is nonsense that people are plucking bids out of the air and putting them on the table without being able to pay for them."



Baldwin: Classic must have achievable plan

Labour delights at fall in members

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leadership has succeeded in crushing one of the remaining bastions of Militant Tendency supporters, the Young Socialists.

After a six-year campaign to cleanse the party of extremist elements, Labour has wrested control of the YS which once boasted an estimated 10,000 members. The latest figures put membership at 250.

As part of the purge of Militant, Neil Kinnock has fought for a broader-based youth movement. In recent years the party leadership has weakened the YS's control by reducing the membership age from 26 to 23, abolishing its seat on the National Executive Committee and adding its newspaper *Socialist Youth*.

Alun Parry, the moderate Liverpool student, now occupies the "youth" seat on the NEC and young members are encouraged to cut their teeth with their older comrades in the constituencies, party organisations and trade unions.

Neil Usher, Labour's youth and student officer, said on BBC Radio 4's *World At One* programme yesterday: "Young members do not have to join the Young Socialists and the vast majority do not, partly because Militant has controlled the YS for the past two decades. This figure of 250 is a pretty sad indictment of Militant's control."

Tony Saunders, the YS representative on the NEC in 1977, denied that the young had turned away from YS because of Militant's influence. "What he [Mr Kinnock] has succeeded in doing, by utilising the old methods of Stalinism, is to expel active fighting socialists from the Labour party, and unfortunately from the YS as well."

Airlines confused over plea to check jets' thrust systems

By PETER VICTOR

RESPONSE to aviation authority requests for checks on the controls of thrust reverse systems on passenger jets was confused yesterday as airlines operating out of British airports considered whether the directive applied to them.

The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has called for checks on electrical systems governing reverse thrusts on certain jet engines in the wake of the Lauda Air disaster, in which the thrust was activated on one of the jet's Pratt and Whitney engines. Yesterday, the Civil Aviation Authority was expected to follow suit. United States airlines in particular believe that the directive does not apply to them, or were even unaware of it.

British Airways, the largest

British carrier, yesterday began checks on Boeing 767s after irregularities were found in some thrust reverser systems. A spokesman said that checks were being made during routine maintenance. "No jets have been grounded," he said. "We have Rolls-Royce engines, and this is a purely precautionary measure."

BA said there was no direct connection between the irregularities and the investigation into the Lauda Air accident, in Thailand in May, in which a Boeing 767-300 suddenly went into reverse and crashed into the jungle, killing all 222 people on board. The earlier irregularities were found in thrust reverse systems on 767s powered by Pratt and Whitney 4000 series engines.

Other airlines are checking

the electrical controls on thrust reversers. Some, however, were confused yesterday by the FAA directive. The authority has asked that all the reverse systems on Pratt and Whitney 4000 series engines, as fitted to some Boeing 767s, be disconnected. The disconnection, which takes about two hours, must be carried out within the next seven days.

Britannia Airways said yesterday that the directive was intended only for carriers using the electrical control system. "Our thrust reversers are mechanically operated," it said. The company called back later to say that it was awaiting another directive from the British authority.

American Airlines said that it had different engines to those addressed by the directive. "That particular directive does not apply to us," it said. Again the company called back; it said that it had received the FAA directive, and added: "It seems the FAA is asking us to check all Boeing. It's not just Pratt and Whitney engines, it's everybody."

Delta Airlines said yesterday that it had no information on the directive, asking: "When was that statement made?"

United Airlines said it was checking four of its twenty-three 767s as they were the only ones with Pratt and Whitney engines. It said: "We have nineteen 767 200 series, which are not powered by this type of engine. They are used primarily for domestic flights. The order does not affect these."

Dick Stafford, for the FAA, said that there should be no confusion. "The directive relates to places using the Pratt and Whitney 4000 series engine using electrical reverse thrust control systems," he said. "They [the airlines] know what's concerned and they know exactly which aircraft are involved. There is no confusion, send them to us. I don't know what they're talking about."

Letters, page 9

RIBA head deplores prince's resignation

By MARCUS BINNEY, ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE president of the Royal Institute of British Architects has deplored the Prince of Wales's resignation as patron of the National Museums of Scotland just as the winner of a competition for an extension to the museum in Edinburgh was announced.

"The profession is deeply disturbed and saddened by the Prince of Wales's timing," said Richard MacCormac, "but reassured that it arises from disagreement about the competition consultation procedure and is not to be interpreted as criticism of the winning scheme or its architects."

Recalling past controversies Mr MacCormac continued: "Those who question the procedure in this case should recollect that the last major competition for a public museum in Scotland, the Burrell Collection, was run on almost exactly similar lines and produced a highly regarded modern building." The prince was at pains to make it clear that

his decision was not a criticism of the winning scheme of architects Benson and Forsyth. He evidently remains concerned at the way public bodies wish to capitalise on his enthusiasm for architecture but fail to involve him sufficiently in discussions about the design of projects.

Of the original 371 competition entries, a list of 51 was drawn up and later narrowed to six. Those six are on display at the museum, with the rest of the 51 on show in the university department of architecture. A *salon des refusés*, with nearly 100 rejects, has been opened by the architect Benjamin Tindall at his offices in Victoria Terrace. He believes the assessors were carried away by the internal spaces of the winning design rather than its public face. "If the public had been given a chance to comment they might have made this point clear."

Bentley case to be reviewed

Continued from page 1

he might have been telling Craig to hand over his gun.

While there were widespread doubts about the verdict even before Bentley went to the gallows in Wandsworth jail, it was only in 1972 with the publication of David Yallop's book on the affair, *To Encourage the Others*, that calls for a pardon began to increase. Mr Yallop, a prolific investigative author, says the case shattered the "myth" of the invincibility of British criminal justice almost a generation before the Court of Appeal last year freed the four people convicted of the Guildford and Woolwich public house bombings.

More recently, the campaign, in which Bentley's sister, Iris, now aged 60, has figured prominently, has become something of an industry. Popular musicians Ralph McTell and Elvis Costello have written songs in support of the campaign. Later this year a feature film on the case is to be released, starring Eileen Atkins, Tom Bell and Tom Courtenay. The backers of the inevitably titled *Let Him Live* believe it may whip up unstoppable pressure for a pardon.

Earlier this year 180 MPs signed a Commons early day motion tabled by Robert Parry, the Labour MP for Liverpool Riverside, calling for an independent public enquiry into the hanging and a pardon. Last night Mr Parry was jubilant that the case had been reopened. "It was a shocking miscarriage of justice," he said.



Bentley: 100,000 signed petition for a reprieve



Craig: at 16 was not old enough for death penalty

Mrs Major votes for cosmetic improvement

By RICHARD FORD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

UNLIKE her husband, who is content to remain plain "plug ugly", Norma Major is a firm believer in using all the tricks in the hands of the cosmetic surgeons.

While John Major is determined that they will not get at him, his wife has no such inhibitions and is in favour of cosmetic surgery and hormone replacement therapy. "It's great if you have got the courage and if you can afford it," she says in an interview published in next month's issue of *Woman's Journal*. "It's not any different from having your hair tinted or permed. It's just a bit of help." Mrs Major

says she has access to diamond necklaces, bracelets and rings which were given to Margaret Thatcher by Middle Eastern rulers and are now the property of the state.

As a child she fantasised about dressing up and meeting the Queen but Mrs Major draws the line at anything as regal as donning a tiara. "Yet when I was a child I dreamed of it."

The socialising side of being the tenant of 10 Downing Street has clearly not turned her head. Dismissing the round of dressy functions as "rather frivolous", Mrs Major emerges as a woman happiest in her home. "I was never fond of

parties and I'm still not. I didn't go to them until I discovered opera that I started going out a lot," she says.

Her contentment with her home and children left Mrs Major with little sympathy for the burgeoning women's movement. "I've not got much time for women's lib or the feminist movement. I think it's easy for me to sit back and say this because I'm not ambitious. I'm pretty happy with my lot, even domestically. It didn't bother me that I was at home looking after the kids. I liked all that and I didn't feel trapped."

She says, however, that she has sympathy for those

who feel they cannot fulfil their ambitions because they are women. "I accept that you need more talent, more energy if you're a woman rather than a man to achieve the same goal, but I have not got much time for any kind of self-discrimination where people sit back and say 'I'm not going to be accepted for this because I'm black or I'm a woman.'"

Mrs Major adds that she had not needed to compete like a single woman. "I think I'm late to mature. I've never really felt I've grown up properly. But that is probably because I've been at home."

Diary, page 8



Mrs Major: "I'm pretty happy with my lot"



Feeling rejected: Mike and Evelyn Freegard, landlord and landlady of the Lansdowne Arms, yesterday

Poll tax rebel MP loses plea

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TERRY Fields, the Labour MP, looks likely to serve the remaining 23 days of his 60-day sentence in Walton prison for non-payment of poll tax after the High Court rejected an application for a judicial review of his case.

Maureen, his wife, and his two children Paula and Stephen waited outside the prison yesterday in the hope that he would be released on bail. After Mr Justice Pill's ruling was relayed, they and the Labour MP's band of loyal supporters quietly dispersed.

Mr Fields' campaigners said: "His disappointment at this vindictive decision was not for himself but for thousands of working-class people who are going to face similar action."

Mr Justice Pill said that he found no arguable grounds for allowing a judicial review of South Sefton magistrates' decision to jail Mr Fields. He also rejected the MP's argument that the home secretary, was wrong to deny remission to jailed poll tax defaulters.

The Campaign Against Poll Tax Imprisonment said the court decision illustrated the injustices of legislation, which enables magistrates to give 60-day sentences without remission for a civil debt of under £400.

What killings? ask Irish in the south

IN THIS charming seaside town, to which thousands of visitors flock each year for holidays or to climb Croagh Patrick, the holy mountain just across Clew Bay, the latest killings in Northern Ireland have barely been noticed.

Like communities all over southern Ireland, its feelings of concern for those in the north turned long ago to frustration, even boredom, with a cycle of violence which has gone on for so long. To many, Northern Ireland seems more remote than ever, a foreign place which could be thousands of miles away.

In all these communities, there is a small ramp of republicans, which helps make up Sinn Féin's national vote of about 1.2 per cent and which occasionally provides recruits for the Provisionals, but such people are the exception, not the rule. In fact, most Irish have reached the point of not caring actively whether the territory is united or not. Many cherish a united Ireland as an ideal, but have no time for those who are trying to achieve it through violence.

Father Tony King, administrator at St Mary's Church in Westport, said that, at the beginning of the troubles, people in Westport were concerned, particularly about the Catholics in the north, and some saw the IRA as helping to protect them from the excesses of the Loyalists. But

The troubled north could be a thousand miles away, writes Edward Gorman from Westport in Co Mayo

people had come a long way since then. "There is a real sense of hopelessness here about Northern Ireland," he said. "There's a sense that the vocabulary no longer has the words to describe the horror and the revulsion. There's a terrible level of frustration with the leadership. There seems to be no one who is able to make an impact on the situation."

Sarah Davies and Brid Hughes, both 16 and still at school, admitted over lunch that they almost never talked about Northern Ireland. Brid said: "You just hear about it and it goes in one ear and out the other. You are pretty immune to it at this stage - it's gone on so long."

In one of Westport's many pubs, a local tradesman enjoying a pint of Guinness was delighted to be conveyed through a British newspaper what he said were typical views about the IRA. He called them murderers and their campaign ridiculous. "I feel sorry for the whole lot of them in the north," he said, "because the IRA are not in it to free Ireland, but to make money."

Earl calls last orders for village pubs

By BILL FROST

MEMBERS of the Lansdowne Arms "formation drinking team" broke out the black armbands yesterday to mark the passing of their pub. A mile down the road, the landlord and landlady of the doomed George Inn were also in mourning, as a Wiltshire village faced a rural tragedy worthy of Hardy's gloomy Wessex.

Charles Maurice Petty-Fitzmaurice, Earl of Shelburne, has decreed that both landlords on his Bowood estate, near Calne, should leave by January. The heir to the Marquess of Lansdowne and a former page of honour to the Queen has told Wadworth, the brewery, that he wants his pubs back.

Customers at the Lansdowne said the pub had fallen victim to the rise of a local golf course, and muttered darkly about rich city folk. Yvonne Freegard, the landlady, said she believed the pubs would become "up-market restaurants" with accommodation for golfers using the nearby course. Her regulars are not taking the earl's last orders lying down. They have a petition that 200 supporters signed in the first 24 hours. "If the Lansdowne closes, where do we drink?" one asked.

Pamela Allington, who runs the George with her husband, Terry, said: "This used to be such a nice little estate. The earl would hold shooting lunches here and have Christmas parties for estate workers. That stopped some time ago. He lost his personal touch. Now I suppose he just has to make as much money as he can."

The Allingtons are leaving the area. "We would not want to live around here after what has happened," Mrs Allington said.

At the Lansdowne, Mrs Freegard, aged 34, who has lived at the pub all her life, spoke out more in sadness than in anger. "This is a body blow for the whole village. What is to become of us?" The earl is on holiday and not available to comment. A local planning officer said no application had been made to convert the pubs into restaurants.

Fire wrecks historic Bath college

Prior Park College, one of the most important historic buildings of Georgian Bath, was badly damaged by fire yesterday (Richard Duce writes).

The fire broke out in the roof of the college designed by John Wood the Elder, the architect of the city's Royal Crescent and The Circus, yesterday afternoon. The cause is unknown but is not thought to be suspicious.

The house, built in 1735 and famous for its Palladian bridge in the grounds overlooking the city, is now a Catholic public school and the roof contains accommodation for the staff. The 430 pupils of the school are at present on holiday and it is thought that the fire started in the room being used by a Polish girl who is on an exchange visit to England. The cost of repair work to the building could run into tens of thousands of pounds.

Jeremy Golding, the college headmaster, said: "The damage is very extensive. Not only has the fire affected the top floor, but water from the firemen's hoses has come down to the floor below so that the common room has been taken out of action."

Hepatitis test

Blood donations will be tested for the antibody to the potentially fatal hepatitis C virus (HCV) from next month, Baroness Hooper, junior minister at the health department, said yesterday. This is an additional and newly developed test for the two million donations collected every year. Pilot studies suggest that only 0.05 per cent of donors are likely to be positive. HCV is not related to HIV or Aids.

Smuggling fine

A bird dealer, a bird dealer aged 36, was fined £250 with £250 costs at Isleworth crown court, west London, yesterday after being found guilty of smuggling 11 rare blue-cheeked Amazonian parrots into Britain. Deans, of Bilsborough, Nottinghamshire, was convicted of smuggling and forging a bird health certificate. He was cleared of producing a false certificate and two other forgery charges.

Fuschias win

The family of Percy Throver, the television personality and gardener who died three years ago, took over where he left off by winning the premier award at Shrewsbury flower show yesterday. His widow and three daughters achieved their ambition to take the award, which had been won many times by Mr Throver, with a display of more than 50 varieties of fuchsia containing an estimated 500,000 blooms.

Conservation experts want 150,000 red deer culled

Red deer have roamed the Highlands for 100,000 years, their numbers kept down by wolf, lynx and harsh winters. Now they are eating their way to their own destruction, reports Kerry Gill

CONSERVATIONISTS, alarmed by the devastation caused by thousands of red deer in Scotland, have called for a cull to halve their numbers. Some wildlife experts believe 150,000 will have to be killed to protect dwindling forests and ensure the health of the deer that remain.

The red deer population has doubled since the late 1950s and is now too large to be sustained by grazing land on the mountains and estates, say the experts.

Red deer, typified by the Monarch of the Glen, have been in the Highlands for 100,000 years. The population was kept low by the wolf and lynx, and the harsh mountain climate until Victorian times when deer-stalking became popular. Many deer are still fed by landowners, but their voracious appetite has ruined ancient forests, prevented new trees from growing and destroyed rare plant life.

Management of red deer has long been controversial even though seven government commissions studied the issue between 1870 and 1950. Kenny Taylor, of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, said yesterday: "I see the red deer as the biggest single problem in the Scottish uplands. We have figures that show native Caledonian pine forests are a fragment of what they were. Birch woods have also been extensively destroyed by overgrazing by sheep and deer, all too often the deer. Things are so far out of balance that we need a radical solution."

Red deer numbers have almost tripled in the past 30 years and the Red Deer Commission, established in 1959 to see that necessary culling is carried out by landowners, has failed to stem the destruction of woodland and moors.

Mr Taylor, and Martin Mathers, of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), said the commission had always

lacked adequate power and its failure meant that 150,000 red deer must be culled over the next five years to prevent the total destruction of natural woodland.

The problem has been made topical by the impending sale of Mar Lodge estate above Deeside, regarded as the most important wilderness area in Britain. The estate has been stripped of much of its ancient Caledonian forest by red deer.

Such forests were once their natural habitat, but as numbers grew and feeding grounds disappeared they moved to open ground and are now destroying remaining food supplies and eroding large parcels of land.

They gorge on rare plants such as the globe flower, bluebell and stretches of cotton grass. They eat willow and juniper that should harbour insects and birds. Herds of several hundred trample the nesting grounds of the dotterel, a rare moorland bird. Nevertheless, many deer, much smaller specimens than their cousins in the wilderness of eastern Europe, die every winter as they huddle in their hundreds for shelter against the vicious climate of the Scottish mountains.

Stalking remains a popular sport in the Highlands, encouraging estates to protect deer. One conservationist said: "If a landowner sees a stag with a good pair of antlers he thinks all is well."

Robin Callender, who is to publish later this month a study of red deer, sponsored by the WWF, Rural Forum Scotland and the Highlands and Islands Enterprise, said up to 3,000 deer sometimes graze within nine square miles in parts of the east Cairngorms.

Simon Pepper, Scottish conservation officer for the WWF, said a cull was in the best interests of the deer. In a harsh winter 50,000 could starve within a couple of



Destroyer of the glen: a red deer stag and his hinds in the Highlands, which has the largest concentration of the native species in Britain

weeks. "We are not only concerned about the destruction they cause, but we must also intervene for the sake of the deer. There is a crisis. Some estates now bury between 200 and 300 after a bad spell of weather," he said.

Estates are reluctant to cull deer when the price for their flesh is so low. The European venison market had been flooded with cheap east European meat and the United States had banned wild Scottish venison because of a BSE scare.

Mr Taylor said: "That is ridiculous. Venison from the wild is as pure as you can get, but the price has crashed. Beasts on the hill knacker our woods but are worth less than rabbits. People are loathe to spend time and money getting them off the hills when they have been offered 15p a pound by dealers."

Mr Taylor added that red deer should be kept as a valuable part of the forest system.

"Red deer in the wild areas of Poland are double the size of ours," he said. "We have taken a woodland animal and shoved it onto land where they should not be, forcing them to eat anything that is available and causing the number one problem in the Highlands."

Out of Town, page 12

Wreckers of crops, gardens and forest

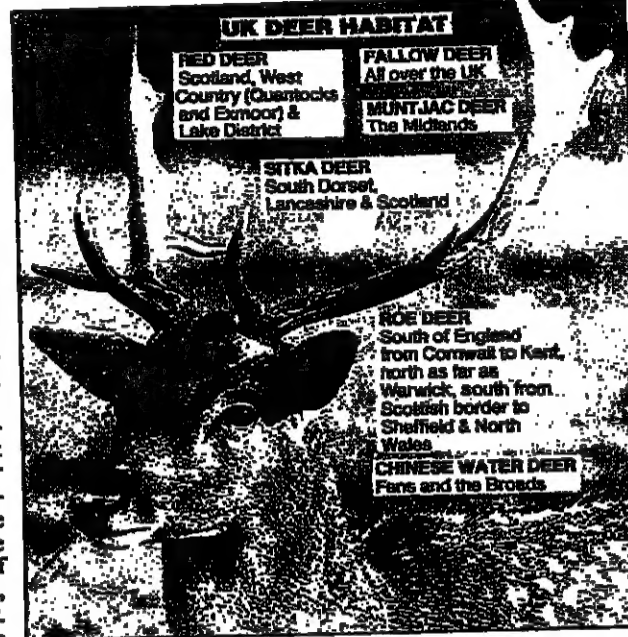
By JOHN YOUNG

DEER in Britain fall into three categories: the herds which belong to large estates, commercial herds farmed for venison and the large numbers that roam wild and damage crops, trees and even domestic gardens.

Of the six species only two are native to this country, red and roe. Red deer are predominantly concentrated in Scotland, but there are also significant numbers on Exmoor and the Quantocks, and in the Lake District.

The stag hunts which survive in Devon and Somerset are a continuing target for anti-hunt protesters. Supporters claim that hunting is the most efficient and humane means of culling and that, if the hunts were outlawed, farmers would shoot the deer.

Roe deer are native to Scotland and the north of England. They died out in the south in the middle ages but have since re-established themselves in an area extending from Cornwall to Kent and north as far as Warwickshire; the northern herds have spread as far south as South Yorkshire and North Wales, and the intervening gap is rapidly closing. Unlike the red



deer, which like to graze crops, roe deer prefer browsing among young trees and are a particular threat to farm woodlands and new forest plantations. Fallow deer were first imported by the Normans and, like the roe, have spread to most parts of Britain. Sitka originated in Japan and were brought to Britain by Victorian landowners keen on introducing exotic species of fauna and flora; the main concentrations are in Scotland, Lancashire and down in south Dorset.

Muntjac are native to what used to be called Indo-China, and have multiplied in the wild, notably in the Midlands, since their forebears escaped

from the Woburn estate in Bedfordshire before the second world war. The sixth species, Chinese water deer, have established themselves mainly in the Fens and Broads of East Anglia.

Richard Prior, technical adviser to the British Deer Society, estimates that there are at least one million deer living in the wild. But there has never been any attempt at a count. "We know there are around 320,000 red deer in Scotland, but beyond that we are in the realms of speculation," he said yesterday.

Roe, fallow and muntjac can live almost anywhere, he pointed out, many on the edges of suburbs. Muntjac are an increasingly serious threat to nature conservation, in that they eat the undergrowth which provides a habitat for birds and butterflies.

Mr Prior believes that action is urgently needed to bring the numbers of wild deer under control. They breed successfully, he says, and have no natural predators. The society has recently initiated a scheme to train people in the art of stalking, and so far just over 1,000 people have been awarded certificates of competence.

Man faces charge for attack by dog

A man whose alsatian savaged a girl aged six is likely to become the first person charged under the Dangerous Dogs Act.

The man, aged 24, from Lambeth, south London, has been summonsed for having a dog dangerously out of control in a public area. The girl, also from Lambeth, had 27 stitches in a cheek wound after the attack on Wednesday.

Crown Prosecution Service officials are deciding whether to press charges.

Skipper jailed

Nicholas Chapman, aged 27, of Wadebridge, Cornwall, was jailed by Exeter magistrates for 12 months, nine months suspended, after ramming his trawler into a boat during the Padstow regatta. He admitted causing criminal damage.

Assault case

Neil Payne, aged 28, of Wollaton, Nottinghamshire, appeared before Nottingham magistrates charged with indecently assaulting a woman at the Queen's medical centre. He was remanded in custody.

Peace match

Rebecca Eavis, aged 28, daughter of the Glastonbury CND rock festival organiser Michael Eavis, will today marry Chris Edwards, aged 28, who tests Trident nuclear submarines.

Player charged

Alan Rathbone, aged 32, a former Great Britain rugby league player, appeared before Warrington magistrates charged with supplying or offering to supply drugs.

Jail escape

Police on both sides of the Irish border are hunting three prisoners who rowed to freedom from Loughan House, open prison, Co Cavan, in the governor's boat.

Briton killed

Duncan Cessford, aged 19, a British hitch-hiker, was shot dead in the northern Transvaal town of Zeerust, near the Botswana border.

Spray it again

British Telecom has recalled a fleet of new vans after they were sprayed yellow rather than grey at Desborough airfield, Northamptonshire.

110 not out

Ethel Tuck celebrated her 110th birthday at a home in Carbis Bay, Cornwall.

Permission to pass out, sir

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT



Hot-headed: a guardsman bears up in the heat

GUARDSMEN at Buckingham Palace and other establishments are having to depend on the kindness of their local commanders to stop them overheating as temperatures rise into the eighties.

It is up to the captain of the guard to decide each day whether to order two-hour or one-hour stints.

The Grenadier Guards outside Buckingham Palace yesterday, with their bearskins weighing more than 2lb, were each standing for two hours.

But some guard duties this week have lasted only one hour. A Ministry of Defence spokesman said: "It's a local

initiative which the commanding officer can take. It means they can leave their post, go back to the guardroom and have a cool drink. We try to be kind to the chaps."

Footguards on duty at St James's Palace and at Horse Guards Parade in Whitehall have had their two-hour stints cut on the hottest days to avoid anyone fainting from heat exhaustion. The mounted sentries always change every hour.

A spokesman for the London Weather Centre predicted more hot weather next week.

Chemical alert closes beach

By LIN JENKINS

PART of a popular South Coast beach has been closed pending an investigation into claims that two young children were burned by a chemical while playing in the sand.

Samples were removed yesterday from one end of Highcliffe beach, Dorset, after tests were ordered by Christchurch council. It follows complaints that Oliver Macey, aged three, and his brother Robert, aged one, who were on holiday from Hounslow, west London, developed burns and blisters while building sandcastles last week.

Stephen Johnstone, the council's environment and leisure manager, said doctors treating the injury did not know if they had been caused by nettles, other plants, the beach or some domestic product.

"Tests on all samples to see if they are caustic will begin immediately," he said. "The consultant has told the medical health officer that he does not expect a guide as to what caused it, but we have to investigate the possibility that there is something on the beach."

He said that since the shoreline bordered the Channel there was always the possibility that deck cargo could be lost from ships and find its way ashore. "There is no correlation between the report of these injuries and any known toxic hazard, but from time to time deck cargo does reach the shore," he said.

John Loftis, a local councillor, said that the investigation was particularly important since the MV *Muree*, an Indian freighter, sank off the Devon coast 18 months ago, releasing barrels of toxic chemicals, some of which were found washed up along the Dorset and Hampshire coast. "This is obviously a major concern and we need to find out what happened, especially in view of the freighter sinking," he said.

We'll never be blue about lavender

Without a whiff of whimsy in the air, Britain's largest producer of lavender turns his nose up at the idea that you can have too much of a good thing, writes Joe Joseph

"NOW be honest, Henry, don't you ever get just a teeny-weeny bit fed up with looking at lavender bushes and breathing in lavender smells all day long? It's everywhere."

"Not at all," says Henry Head, with that slow, precise delivery people use when talking to a great aunt's ear trumpet. Fed up? He would be just as baffled if someone had asked if he would mind winning the pools. The idea that a man could have too much lavender would only cross Mr Head's mind if he were searching for something preposterous to giggle over.

Henry Head is boss of Britain's only large lavender farm and lavender oil distillery. Other gardeners plant a sprig or two of lavender to liven up a border. Mr Head has 450,000 bushes spread over 100 acres at Heacham, Norfolk.

"I even have lavender around my house. I use lavender soap and lavender bath and shower gel. We eat lamb with lavender sauce. Absolutely delicious. A restaurant up the road does it, too. We produce a lavender

jelly and lavender marmalade, which we sell in the shop, although we don't eat much marmalade because we have muesli and eggs for breakfast."

"You stop noticing it after a while. People come into my office and remark on the smell of lavender. I don't notice it." "But, Henry, don't people comment in the local pub about your clingy, fragrant aroma?" "No, I don't think so."

Harvesting began a month ago and should be complete by the end of August. Eight workers take turns to drive the mechanical harvester, picking the crop and doing their best to keep lavender-loving bees from buzzing up their trouser legs.

They say the Romans brought lavender to Britain. Roman soldiers carried their own medical supplies. Before the days of penicillin

and Elastoplast, first aid kits were filled with things such as lavender, rosemary and borage.

Lavender was popular with Romans for healing, soothing and keeping away insects. They scented their baths with it and burnt it in honour of the gods. Romans were almost as keen on lavender as Mr Head, though few of them had it sewn into filly heart-shaped pouches or quilted Kleenex tissue holders. Mr Head does.

Norfolk Lavender, Mr Head's company, makes everything from lavender oil to lavender-scented pillows. About 150,000 visitors come each year to see the farm's 60-strong national collection of lavenders and to stock up on lavender talcum powder and lavender-scented drawer liners in the farm shop. They could also buy them in

Harrods. Half the firm's output is exported: Saudi Arabia is the biggest customer, followed by America and Japan.

"We get about one and a half tons of flowers and stalks from every acre," Mr Head says. "After distilling it, that turns into about 18 to 20lb of lavender oil." About two thirds of the crop is distilled into oil. The rest is used as flowers in sachets and pot-pourri and in all those knick-knacks which nobody buys for themselves but regard as suitable for Christmas presents.

"But isn't lavender a little fuddy-duddy nowadays?" "The population is ageing, so it doesn't matter if it's fuddy-duddy," Mr Head says. "The other thing is that people are becoming much more aware of green issues, and lavender's a natural fragrance."

"Also, lavender is renowned for its ability to soothe and calm. Our scented lavender pillow helps you to sleep. No, it doesn't cure snoring. If it did, I'd give one to my wife."

Farmers' Diary, page 12

Splash out less on next summer's holiday.

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£1200+	£75
£1000+	£50
£800+	£30
£600+	£20
£450+	£15
£350+	£10
£250+	£5
up to £250	£0



Harvest time: lavender is cut on Henry Head's farm at Heacham, Norfolk, to be used in a host of scented products

Duty-free 'bargains' are undercut by shops abroad

By ROBIN YOUNG

HOLIDAYMAKERS who shop around will discover again this year that duty-free bargains are not always what they seem. The price of the same litre of whisky can vary by £1.75 between cross-Channel ferry carriers, and even within Heathrow airport's terminal 4 two neighbouring duty-free shops show a 25p difference on the price of a litre of Bell's.

Alders' price for Bell's in terminal 4 is £7.40, while a few steps away Forte is charging £7.65. Alders' price for Cutty Sark is £8.15, whereas Forte charges only £7.19.

BAA, the company which operates eight airports including Heathrow and Gatwick, insists that its duty-free franchisers guarantee the public at least a 50 per cent saving over average high street prices on main brands of spirits. A price survey is conducted quarterly to ascertain what average high-street prices are. The price comparison does not take account of the bonus that duty-free spirits are frequently of greater alcoholic strength.

On popular cigarette brands the saving is at least 40 per cent, and on other brands from 20 to 40 per cent. A

saving on malt or premium whisky, and on premium brands of cigarettes, is thus likely to be only 30 per cent. On Reany Martin VSOP brandy it is 35 per cent.

On perfumes, which are no longer subject to excise duty, the shops in BAA airports are still obliged to offer at least a 21 per cent saving, but on other tax-free goods the saving need only be the bare amount of value-added tax, 17.5 per cent. Considerable though these savings are, the duty-free

prices are never as little as the high street price would be if simply stripped of its duty element. "We have never disguised that we make a profit from our commercial operations", BAA said yesterday. "That is how we can operate the airports without taking a profit on landing and handling charges, and still finance airport improvements."

Travellers are still likely to find that at least some popular duty-free items are offered more cheaply by airlines' in-flight sales than they are in the airport duty-free shops. The selection, though, is limited.

It is also possible to find that some spirits and cigarettes are available more cheaply at one's destination than they are duty-free at home. Smirnoff Red vodka is now available more cheaply in ordinary shops in Greece and Portugal, while Gordon's gin costs less in local shops in Italy or Spain. Duty-free shops in France, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, Portugal and Spain are likely to offer at least some spirits and perfumes more cheaply than the British duty-free shops' prices.

Duty-free spirits and cigarettes are a better bargain



Have bottles, will travel: a clinking array in the Forte duty-free shop at terminal 4, Heathrow, yesterday

compared with UK prices than tax-free cameras, watches or perfumes. Occasionally perfumes, like spirits, are available more cheaply in ordinary local shops abroad than in British duty-free shops. After criticism last year that

airport shops were exploiting a captive audience by charging up to 70 per cent extra for branded soft drinks, and a fifth more for a packet of tampons or sticking plasters, BAA now operates a further price pledge that goods offered

through airport shops such as W H Smith or Rainer's will be at the same price as charged in their high street branches. Other airports and ferry terminal shops are not bound by this policy, though, and in some instances it is still

possible to find items such as mosquito coils, electric plug converters, and gift packs of tea and sweets at prices noticeably above the high-street norm.

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Police may be charged over PC's framing

By RICHARD DUCE

THE Crown Prosecution Service is to decide whether any police officers should be charged after the framing on a robbery charge of a former constable, who was subsequently jailed for 17 years.

Thomas Corley had his conviction on charges of conspiracy to rob and supplying a firearm quashed in March last year by Court of Appeal judges, who said that his trial the year before had been "a travesty of justice, fuelled by fabricated evidence". Two senior police officers in Manchester had "trawled the ranks of serious criminals" for evidence against Mr Corley, aged 33, after he had left the force.

It was announced yesterday that a report on a Police Complaints Authority enquiry led by Colin Bailey, assistant chief constable of West Yorkshire, into the affair has been sent to the CPS, which will consider prosecution. If no charges are laid, the PCA will consider police discipline charges.

Mr Corley, of Partington, Greater Manchester, was implicated in an £11,000 robbery by three known criminals.

Council accused of blunder over poll tax payments

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

A CONSERVATIVE council which sent a court summons for non-payment of the poll tax to one of its councillors defended its action yesterday and said it had not acted unreasonably.

Adrian Nixey, who represents the village of Chalgrove on South Oxfordshire district council, was one of 3,559 people who received a summons for non-payment this week. Many of those who have received summonses say they have paid their poll tax and have accused the council.



Heselting council is in his Henley constituency whose area includes the Henley-on-Thames constituency of Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, of incompetence.

The council, which refused to discuss individual cases on the grounds that it would contravene the Data Protection Act, insisted that all those summoned were in arrears with their poll tax.

Alan Hill, who received a summons, said: "My wife and I were Conservatives until we received the summonses. We are paying by direct debit, so we cannot possibly be in arrears."

Mr Hill said he thought he had been summonsed because

of a mistake made by the council in setting out last year's poll tax bill. His bill for 1990 asked for eight instalments of £52.80 each, which he paid. Only after being summonsed for arrears this week did he realise that the instalments amounted to only £422.40, a shortfall of £52.84. "We paid what they asked and it is their fault if they cannot add up correctly," Mr Hill said.

Mr Nixey, a farmer, said that summonses had been issued to him, his wife and his parents because he had been ten days late in paying a poll tax instalment for July. In haste, he had forgotten to sign the cheque for the four members of his family and it had been returned by the council. Although he signed it and returned it through the council's own internal post, it arrived ten days late.

"It is very worrying to think about the effect this will have had on older people who have got a summons out of the blue when they thought they had paid," he said.

Tracey Chapman, the council's assistant revenues manager, said: "All the summonses we have issued are in respect of people who have not paid. A reminder is sent out to everyone who falls behind. After a reminder has been sent, the individual has seven days to bring the account up to date. If they do not, the amount becomes due. If the full amount is not paid, the council will apply to the magistrates for a summons."

By the end of the last financial year, 82 per cent of the 90,000 adults in South Oxfordshire had paid their poll tax. Mrs Chapman said the issuing of reminders this month had already improved the collection rate.

Museum goes back to basics of history

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

AS MUSEUMS move closer to displaying the fundamentals of life in their quest for historical reality, Chiltern Open Air Museum at Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire, might have reached the ultimate with its latest usable exhibit: a restored Edwardian public convenience.

The 1906 lavatory stood beside Caversham Bridge in Reading and was used by tram passengers for almost 80 years. The structure was closed in the 1970s and among the schemes proposed by Reading borough council was to turn it into a tea room. When none of them proved practical the building was scheduled for demolition.

Miriam Moir, the museum's project director in charge of restoring the toilets, said: "We heard about it on the grapevine, and when we asked the council if we could dismantle it they donated it to us."

Restoration by volunteers began in 1987 and should be completed by the end of this month, with the original

decorative cast-iron panel screens between cubicles, copper and brass piping, oak seats and porcelain.

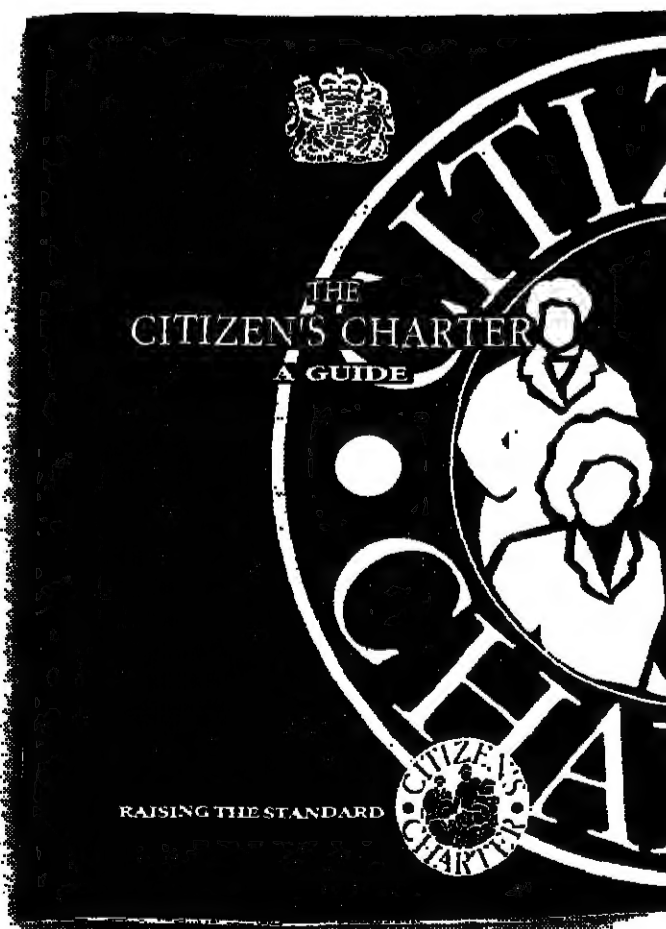
The cost of £36,000 has been met partly by financial help from 20 different companies and trusts, including Caradon Twyford Ltd, which made the original fittings.

The penny slots had been removed from the doors, presumably because of decimalisation, but when we researched the toilet handles we found they were highly sexist - there were penny slots only on the three ladies' stalls while the men got everything free," Mrs Moir said. "We are putting the penny slots back on, but on the men's and ladies' stalls this time."

Visitors, however, will not have to hunt for old pennies before using the lavatories as their use is free. The only concession to the modern era is that one cubicle in both the ladies and gents is being adapted for the disabled.

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Zaire's power and perfume set fiddle while Kinshasa burns



Mobutu: accused of blocking democracy

THE Lebanese businessman, speaking with an eight-inch cigar clamped between his teeth, confessed that his watch, so heavy with diamonds it could be spotted glittering across the room from 50 paces, had been a snip at \$130,000 (£77,000).

All around him members of the *poitovoir* (power), as those close to President Mobutu are known in Zaire, glided through the Chez Nicola restaurant in a choking fog of expensive perfume. Apart from their extravagantly displayed wealth, the *poitovoir* are easy to spot in Kinshasa as they are almost the only people who still wear the Mobutu jacket.

Designed by the president after a brief visit to China 15 years ago, it is a Mao jacket

with a collar. Those who wish to acknowledge the stumbling process towards democracy wear a brightly coloured silk cravat with it. In most cases, that is where their commitment to democracy ends.

A few diamond dealers and smugglers, corrupt officials, and representatives of multinational companies continue to gorge themselves on the country's extraordinary resources. But it will be a matter of days before rocketing inflation puts even basic foodstuffs beyond the means of most of the five million people in the capital. Zaire is the world's biggest producer of cobalt and the second largest of diamonds, but the price of a pound of sugar in the city's Grand Marché has doubled to \$2 in the past five

The conference President Mobutu convened to give Zaire democracy and himself more time has been suspended. Sam Kiley reports

days and last month's inflation rate was said to be at least 1,000 per cent.

"Life is very hard for us traders because nobody has any money. We used to be busy here all the time but now we have to sell smaller and smaller packages," said Thérèse, aged 52, who was tying up two teaspoonfuls of dried milk; she sells an average of one tiny packet to a family a day.

At Kinshasa's international airport customs officers do not demand bribes: they

beg for them. It costs \$50 to get out of the airport if one is carrying a camera and officers who have missed out on the earlier pickings will pursue the unwary traveller to his taxi. "Monsieur, I am hungry, my children are hungry, give me five dollars for food," said one as he chased me down to my waiting car with such desperation in his eyes that I knew what he said was true.

For the past 14 years, Zaire has been like a vast, leaky

ship without a rudder as President Mobutu, who has ruled the nation for 26 years, has confined his duties as head of state to systematically disrupting the democratisation of the country and cutting a dash abroad. His subjects, meanwhile, treat him with angry contempt as they struggle to cope with the results of inflation and a currency in free fall.

The government has suspended the national congress convened to draw up a new constitution. The opposition accuses President Mobutu of intimidation and attempting to rig the event. Parliamentary police ring the People's Palace where the gathering was held in what may be their last act of loyalty to the Mobutu regime. One former adviser

said that as the country continues to drift, without an effective government, secessionist movements would seize the opportunity to benefit from the chaos and could begin a civil war. The biggest threat comes from the copper-rich Shaba province in the southeast, where President Mobutu has suppressed two violent uprisings since 1968, and Kivu in the east.

The claims of opposition leaders to represent the will of the people are simply based on pervasive anti-Mobutu sentiment. None of the parties has presented a coherent economic or political policy for the nearly bankrupt country, nor can they boast of having elected officials.

Nevertheless Tschikede Wa Mulumba, leader of the

Union for Democracy and Social Progress, is emerging as a president-in-waiting if President Mobutu can be persuaded to go or is toppled. "Mobutu has been demystified and the people are no longer afraid," said Mr Tschikede. For all their denunciations of the president as "the biggest thief in the world", it is clear that many opposition leaders have dipped into the coffers themselves. The car parks at their press conferences are crammed with late-model Mercedes and four-wheel drive saloons, in a city where a bag of rice to feed a family for a month costs nearly £24 — the average wage for a journalist here and double the salary of a police lieutenant.

Pretoria amnesty opens way for return of exiles

From GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG AND ALAN MCGREGOR IN GENEVA

THE South African government has agreed in principle to a general amnesty for all political exiles, paving the way for the repatriation of tens of thousands of anti-apartheid activists under the supervision of the United Nations.

The documents were initiated in Geneva yesterday and a formal agreement between Pretoria and the United Nations High Commissioner

for Refugees is expected shortly, after months of wrangling over the terms of the amnesty and the UN role.

In Geneva, Nicholas Bwakira, the head of the commissioner's African desk, said: "It is a giant step in the rapprochement between South Africa and the international community." Mr Bwakira, from Burundi, opened negotiations with Pretoria 16

months ago. "We are setting up an office in Johannesburg within the next two weeks, then sub-offices in four other cities," he said.

The accord will remove a political obstacle to negotiations on a new constitution, and may contribute towards South Africa eventually resuming its seat in the UN general assembly, which has been vacant for 20 years. A Pretoria spokesman said that the accord had not been finalised, but UN sources said that the only issues left were of a technical nature. About 3,000 exiles have returned in the past year under a selective amnesty, including the leadership of the African National Congress and other black nationalist organisations.

García may go for trial

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN LIMA

ALAN García, the former president of Peru, may stand trial on charges that he stole nearly \$50 million (£30 million) in public funds, after lawmakers voted to lift his immunity from prosecution. He is also under investigation for links with the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI).

Analysts said that the vote was unprecedented in Peru's 167 years as a republic. The Chamber of Deputies, the lower house, voted 88-76 after a seven-hour debate to lift Señor García's immunity. An uproar broke out among congress members of Señor García's American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (Apra) after the vote was announced. Several dozen young activists in the gallery shouted: "The Apra will never die," and punched the air with their fists for ten minutes.

Señor García, aged 42, has denied all charges of wrongdoing. He has accused his enemies of staging a witch-hunt and vowed to defend himself in court if he is brought to trial. The Senate has yet to make a decision. A vote on whether to lift immunity requires the approval of both houses.

Fernando Olivera, an independent congressman who heads a committee of the lower house investigating Señor García's finances, accused him of having taken \$50 million in public funds. "We want the country to regain its lost prestige," Señor Olivera said. He also accuses Señor García of spending beyond the means of his \$1,500 monthly presidential salary to build three houses in Lima.

The chamber debated both issues. Señor Olivera also spoke of alleged links between Señor García and the collapsed BCCI. A Senate committee is investigating charges that two former Central Bank officials took \$3 million in bribes from BCCI during Señor García's term in exchange for depositing \$270 million of Peru's international reserves in BCCI.



García: immunity from prosecution may be lifted

Hope lost for four divers

From JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

THE four divers trapped in a decompression chamber that sank when an oil exploration barge capsized during a typhoon in the South China Sea were presumed dead yesterday. Their oxygen supply would have run out by dawn.

The Britons, Steve Hardy, Brian Sheppard and Terry Dennison, and John Lyons, from New Zealand, could not have survived. The search coordinator, Trevor Berry, said: "We are beginning to look at salvage rather than rescue."

Mr Berry, explaining his decision to concentrate on searching for survivors from Thursday's accident on the surface, added: "It is very sad, but I think we have got to accept that we have probably lost those missing men now."

Two specially trained divers from Singapore had been called in an attempt to free the men. But angry survivors from the oil barge that sank in the shark-infested waters began to question the vessel's safety and the choices that led up to the disaster which left at least 13 other people dead.

Hong Kong rescue teams braved the towering seas of Typhoon Fred to rescue 172 of the crew of Derrick Barge 29, and brought home 13 bodies, including the corpse of the captain, Billy Young, an American.

Discovery of uranium core ruins Maralinga cover-up

From ROBERT COCKBURN IN SYDNEY

SCIENTISTS demonstrating their radiation monitors in June to the new British high commissioner to Australia, Brian Barber, on his first tour of the Maralinga nuclear range, South Australia, stumbled on a 5kg uranium core, believed to be part of the inner workings of an old atom bomb, sticking out of the sand in an area Britain claimed to have cleaned up in 1967.

Active uranium and plutonium were dispersed during the secret "Minor Trials" in which nuclear weapons were blown apart with high explosives to simulate aircraft accidents, while not creating a big nuclear detonation.

The uranium core should have been returned to Britain for weapons analysis. But one of the scientists present, Dr Mike Costello, now says that it was locked up in a safe at the Maralinga base.

According to Dr Des Davy, Australia's leading nuclear physicist appointed to head a four-year government study to cost a clean-up at Maralinga, Britain was to be spared any embarrassment over what was unearthed there. He said: "We were interested in trying to

have a set of options which would allow the land to be released for general access. Then we wanted to make sure that the British were not concerned that anything that might be dug up would be embarrassing to them."

British and American scientists co-operated with the Australian study of Maralinga. But the policy of avoiding embarrassment went awry

with the discovery of the core. A senior government source has said its revelation could jeopardise any chance of Britain accepting liability for a share of the estimated \$400 million (£247 million) bill at Maralinga.

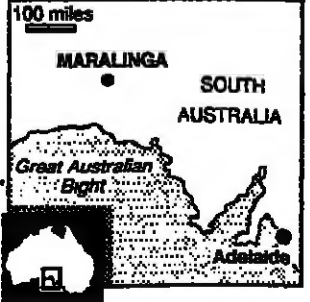
Privately, officials suggest the publicly stated reason for the clean-up — to make the

area safe for returning Aborigines — obscures the other requirement to meet Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty regulations that Maralinga's 25-year abandonment was technically breached.

Details of nuclear weapons data and material still lying around the world's only abandoned nuclear weapons range — which could assist an aspiring nuclear power — will be broadcast tonight on Australian television. A *Dateline* programme, "Maralinga — A Secret Deal", follows an investigation by *The Times* and the Australian government's SBS television network.

The programme also reveals how the French government-controlled exploration company Elf Aquitaine surveyed the range and built an unauthorised road to the site of Britain's most secret nuclear experiments, two years before these were exposed by the Australian government in 1984.

Britain still refuses to accept liability for the severe contamination from the Minor Trials discovered at Maralinga after it had left and had given the range a clean bill of health.



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Simon last played in Central Park a decade ago with his erstwhile partner Art Garfunkel, drawing about 400,000. Although he again played many of the duo's famous hits, such as *The Sound of Silence*, this time Garfunkel was absent.

"I'm not good enough to be invited," Garfunkel complained to *The New York Times*. "My guess is that it would hurt his sense of stature." The massive crowd delighted in retracing Simon's 25-year musical odyssey from *Bridge Over Troubled Water* to the *Graceland* album and his Brazilian-style hit *The Obvious Child*.

"It was absolutely wonderful," said Gabi Porter, aged 17. "What he's done for New York is incredible. The atmosphere was great — every-



Simon: the New York superstar showing his delight as 750,000 fans pack Central Park for his concert

Simon simply soothes New York

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

IF THERE is a single person who can save New York, it seems to be Paul Simon. The diminutive pop star attracted 750,000 good-natured New Yorkers — more than the entire population of San Francisco — to Central Park on Thursday night for a free concert.

The last time a big star sang in the park — Diana Ross's concert in 1983 — the crowd went on the rampage through the city. At Simon's performance, however, only four people were arrested in the park — less than on an average night. "It's a perfect night in New York City," he announced to his fans.

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Garfunkel, drawing about 400,000. Although he again played many of the duo's famous hits, such as *The Sound of Silence*, this time Garfunkel was absent.

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"It was absolutely wonderful," said Gabi Porter, aged 17. "What he's done for New York is incredible. The atmosphere was great — every-

one was there to have fun and Paul Simon provided the fun." The four arrests were for disorderly conduct, petty larceny, grand larceny and robbery. The only serious incident occurred when one fan fell 70ft from his vantage point in a tree.

All in all, the concert left New Yorkers feeling pretty good about themselves, despite the usual silly-season news stories about how the city is on the verge of collapse, with local government layoffs, rising crime and poverty.

The focus of attention this summer has been the Canarsie section of Brooklyn, the scene of a string of racial attacks known in the parlance of the New York

Police Department as "bias crimes". The seemingly quiet neighbourhood has witnessed 14 racially inspired crimes since the July 4 Independence Day holiday.

The latest national crime figures show, however, that New York is not as dangerous as popularly imagined. The city dropped from ninth to tenth place in the murder rankings, well behind Washington in first place, and fell from 29th to 30th in overall crime, behind Atlanta, Georgia.

The New York police department was wondering yesterday whether crime would fall even further if Simon gave more concerts.

Mutineers jailed

Buenos Aires — Argentina's highest military tribunal convicted and sentenced 26 non-commissioned officers to jail sentences ranging from 30 days to nine years for last December's one-day rebellion in which at least 13 people died. The ruling automatically goes to the civilian federal appeals court for review. (AP)

Flood aid

Peking — The Chinese government is releasing an additional 1.5 billion yuan (about £165 million) to aid people hardest hit by recent flooding. Most of the cash will be spent on food, shelter, medical treatment and the repair of damaged hospitals and schools, with the remainder going towards non-specified projects. (AFP)

Stepping back

Peking — More than 3,000 Chinese students are retracing the gruelling 1934-5 Long March by China's Communist forefathers as part of a renewed campaign to boost ideological awareness on campuses. *The People's Daily* said they hoped to gain "the victorious spirit of revolutionary heroism". (Reuters)

Venue switch

Boston — Harvard university organisers of an international AIDS conference due in Boston next year say it will be moved to another country because of American entry restrictions, which scientists have criticised severely, on people with the HIV virus. A new venue is expected to be announced within a month. (Reuters)

Defiant Tokyo

Tokyo — Japan has no intention of apologising to America for its attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, said Nobuo Ishihara, a government spokesman, and the US should apologise to Japan. "All peoples of the world must have regrets over the war in that they were unable to preclude the unfortunate situation." (AFP)

Jailhouse rot

Baltimore — The state of Maryland has found 93 people in the Baltimore city detention centre awaiting non-existent dates for court hearings, after a homeless man who spent a year in jail without trial was released. The cases had been forgotten because of widespread errors in keeping the prison's records. (AFP)

Militants attack Japanese bank

From JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

NOT content with taking a hostage at gunpoint a week ago from the headquarters of the world's largest brokerage, Nomura Securities, Shokoku, a Japanese extreme right-wing nationalist group, dispatched two more young men yesterday to attack, with Japanese swords, a Tokyo branch of Fuji Bank.

The two men arrived at the Asakusa branch of the bank, the nation's fourth-largest, at lunchtime and ordered female employees and customers to leave. Threatening the remaining employees, and slashing the bank counter with their blades, they demanded an audience with the bank's president.

Police arrested the two for violation of the firearms and sword control law, and said that they were investigating the possibility of a link with Fuji Bank's recent fraud scandal. A former section chief and two other employees of the Asakusa branch are suspected of issuing 51 false deposit certificates worth 260 billion yen (£1.1 billion) to certain customers to be used as collateral to borrow funds from other lending institutions.

Camera frames 'rapist'

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

NEW York's tabloid newspapers could hardly believe their luck this week when police released a photograph said to be of a bespectacled black man sought for a series of rapes on Manhattan's Upper East Side. But yesterday it emerged that a malfunction in the secret cameras recording transactions in the bank had misaligned the photographs and a picture of an innocent man had been released.

The photograph showed the man leaving a bank after apparently drawing money from a cash machine with a bank card stolen from one of the rape victims. The *Daily News* ran the photograph over its entire front page as a "Wanted" poster, and the public responded by jamming a police hotline with calls identifying the suspect.

"We went to him and he said he didn't do it," said Lieutenant Henry Beattie of the Manhattan sex crimes unit. The unidentified man has never been in trouble with the law. Lieutenant Beattie conceded: "His life has been turned upside down."

EC mission fired on as truce nears collapse

By ROBERT SEELY IN ZAGREB AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A HELICOPTER carrying members of the European Community observer mission was hit by gunfire yesterday amid signs that the truce between Serbia and Croatia, the warring Yugoslav republics, was nearing collapse.

The helicopter was forced to land on a farm after being hit near the town of Novska, southeast of Zagreb, Marco Henrich, an EC spokesman said. "There was no personal damage but no personal injury," Croatian authorities later reported that two bullets hit the underside of the helicopter while four more were lodged in its blades.

Crowds of Witnesses ease siege

By ROBERT SEELY

THOUSANDS of Jehovah's Witnesses have descended on Zagreb, the capital of Croatia, for a three-day assembly to discuss "freedom" and "God's divine work".

Both these commodities appear to be in short supply here, although the faithful who have arrived from North America and Western Europe, provide a brief sense of relief from the persistent rumours in the city of an imminent offensive by Yugoslavia's Serb-dominated federal army.

"We had been wondering whether to come but in the end we decided to go ahead with things. This will be an instructive period for us," said Armando Accione, who is in charge of an Italian delegation of more than 2,000 members of the sect.

The irony of the conference's title - "Lovers of divine freedom" - has not been lost on Croats who are struggling against what they see as Serb domination. It is a name that rings hollow in this war-torn rebel republic, criticised by checkpoints manned by trigger-happy fighters. Whether the religious group will actually be Croatia's witnesses to Serbia's long-expected attack is open to question. The rumours probably owe more to a sense of Croatian powerlessness and fear than to reality.

Signor Accione proudly said that the conference is the first to be held by the organisation in Yugoslavia. It is, in fact, the first to be organised by Jehovah's Witnesses in a state at war with itself.

"Man was never meant to be in a state of slavery. God means us to be free from all kinds of bondage," Signor Accione added. Freedom for Croats would indeed be divine.



Shedding light: Patriarch Pavel, the spiritual leader of the Serbian Orthodox Church, lighting a candle yesterday during a commemorative service marking the 70th anniversary of the death of King Peter I, the first monarch of Yugoslavia

Armenian rebels free three Soviet soldiers

FROM KULTER IN MOSCOW

ARMENIAN guerrillas released three captured Soviet soldiers yesterday but were still holding another 38, according to Tass.

The rebels seized the soldiers this week and held them as hostages in an attempt to secure the release of an arrested Armenian militant leader known as "Napoleon".

The troops were captured in Nagorno-Karabakh, a largely Armenian enclave inside the southern republic of Azerbaijan.

The Soviet interior ministry said on Thursday that it was prepared to use force to free the hostages. Tense negotiations between General Valeri Starikov and the rebels, through an intermediary from the separatist Armenian government, resumed yesterday.

Yeltsin puts down welcome mat for Russian 'traitors'

FROM MARY DIEVSKY IN MOSCOW

LESS than five years ago they were still traitors to the motherland; suddenly they are "compatriots" - and Moscow, the pre-Petrine and post-Soviet capital of Russia, is laying on an organic celebration of Russianness to welcome them back. "We are one people" will be its theme.

There will be folk-singing and dancing, daily church services, concerts and plays, and a pageant. There are bus trips to newly restored monasteries, meetings with the new class of entrepreneurs and "round tables" for discussing, in a multitude of guises, the Russian condition.

The two-week Congress of Compatriots opens officially on Monday but is already revving itself up, to the confusion of present and former Muscovites alike. The word "compatriot", recently em-

played as a nice way of saying "émigré", means little to Soviet Russians who wonder why "compatriots" merit welcome banners in the street. They wonder, too, why there are so many foreigners around who speak a sort of Russian and haggle more resolutely than foreigners should.

Arriving "compatriots" are puzzled, too. In the lobby of the Rossiya hotel yesterday, where a whole wing has been requisitioned for them, little groups of émigrés were trying to change money, and find a lift that was working or even a full programme for their congress. They speak the same language as those around them, and yet they do not. They are taking part in an international conference, in a supposedly international standard hotel, and yet the wheels are somehow rolling at

The Pope warns of freedom perils

FROM ANDREW MCEWEN IN SIENA

THE stone-flagged backstreets of Siena became a battleground of pushing, shoving, shouting humanity in the early hours of yesterday as fist fights broke out between the city's rival tribes on the eve of the Palio, the twice-yearly horse race held in the medieval main square.

Paradoxically, the winner is in some ways the loser, in that the costs of victory are so great that *contrade* often do deals afterwards to avoid a second victory.

The jockeys are issued with whips made from the extended skin of the penis of a bull and are expected to use it to beat each other, not the horses. Every Palio has an element of chance balancing an element which can be fixed. In a recent race a wealthy *contrada* succeeded in buying out all its rivals in the minutes before the race, but still lost it because the best horse refused to be "pulled" by its jockey.

The chance element lies in the horses which are allocated to the *contrade* only three days before the finals to prevent wealthy areas of the city being guaranteed victory.

Four hours before the finals the nine competing horses received blessings each in the parish church of the *contrada* to which it had been allocated. In one parish a magnificent horse called Pitheos was led down the aisle of San Niccolò del Carmine.

Padre Alfonso Pelone said a prayer asking that Pitheos be protected against the risks of the race. As the animal was led out *contrada* members in blue and crimson costumes, the colours of the Panthers, chanted encouragement.

In the pew next to me an elderly lady with a silk fan, observed: "Nobody can really understand the loyalty people feel towards their *contrade* unless they live and grow up in this town".

Most in the packed square awaiting the final race seemed unmoved by the row over criticisms by Franco Zeffirelli, the film and opera director, and Brigitte Bardot, the actress, that the race is a form of cruelty.

Reactor reprieve

Sofia - Bulgaria has postponed shutting down an ailing nuclear reactor at its Kozloduy plant on the Danube because a strike by coal miners is threatening output at coal-fired power plants. Kozloduy's five reactors produce 40 per cent of the nation's electricity. (AFP)

Threat to polls

Sofia - All non-communist disputes in Bulgaria's parliament walked out during a debate on a new electoral law placing a question mark over elections planned for mid-October. They claim the new law would be biased in favour of the Socialist party, formerly the communist party. (Reuters)

About turn

Wendert - Soviet army deserters, disillusioned by life as asylum-seekers in Germany, have begun trickling back to barracks asking for permission to go home. The return rate is still low - about 15 out of more than 200 soldiers who have fled west - but the Soviet army believes numbers will grow. (Reuters)

UK resists compensation idea for Gulf servicemen

By JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND RAY CLANCY

BRITAIN is resisting an American proposal that the families of allied servicemen killed in the Gulf war should be able to recover compensation from Iraq, according to diplomatic sources.

The American proposal, which could also enable wounded servicemen to receive damages, was discussed at a recent meeting in Geneva of the governing council of the UN compensation fund set up to settle war claims against Iraq.

Up to 30 percent of Iraq's future oil revenues will be channelled into the fund to

meet claims, starting with \$480 million (£289 million) raised from the sale of \$1.6 billion of Iraqi oil authorised by the security council on Thursday night.

The United Nations has promised to give individuals precedence over companies and governments in receiving compensation, and has announced an "expedited procedure" for individual claimants including Western "human shields" taken hostage by Iraq.

But Britain and France are opposing the American proposal to allow allied servicemen to seek damages from the

compensation fund. Both countries cite problems with precedent in international law, which has never allowed soldiers to claim compensation from the enemy. "There is nothing like this in international law," said one diplomat.

The 15-nation governing council of the fund said in a recent report that it was still considering the proposal, which one American source described as "very controversial". The council has also not yet decided whether to allow claims for "mental pain and anguish".

British hostages used as human shields welcomed the resolutions. But they said that a long drawn-out system of reparations will not help anyone and they urged the Foreign Office to ensure that claims are met quickly. Some said the psychological damage could never be compensated and many are also owed wages by the Kuwaiti government.

Peter Stubb, who was held at a power station in Baghdad and at a military installation in the north, has already filed in a claim for £75,000 which includes around £20,000 for loss of earnings. He is also claiming for possessions such as furniture, car and his wife's jewellery.

"We always knew it was going to take a long time, but the worrying thing is not knowing how much we can recover and when."

Tanks shell oil well

FROM REUTER IN AHMADI, KUWAIT

AMERICAN army tanks went into action in Kuwait's blazing oilfield yesterday to help firefighters tackling the ugliest legacy of the Gulf war.

"Very successful," was the verdict from Larry Flak, of the Kuwait oil company, after a tank pumped ten high-velocity rounds into the rock-hard belly of a burning mound of coke on well BG93 in the Burgan field. All but one of the shells hit their target as the modified M60 tank launched Operation Victory Crusade. They cut to minutes the job of breaking up the hard-packed residue which would have taken firefighters three days to accomplish before beginning to cap the well.

Each shell sent a huge plume of fire into the morning sky, lighting the dark beneath dense, black clouds of oily smoke which blocked out the sun. The blasts echoed across the desert, lit by orange flames from other wells set alight by the retreating Iraqis at the end of February.

"We went in with this rake and made three drags at it. It just fell apart. It's full of cracks and makes it very easy to peel the material away," said Mr Flak



Hot shots: an American tank crew firing up their gun on a blazing oil well in Kuwait yesterday

after the tank assault. "A very good job," said Danny Clayton from Texas, who heads the Red Adair team in Kuwait, which asked the army for help.

"There are a lot of wells at Burgan which need the same operation. We will use the tanks again," he added. Scores of wells at Burgan, one of the biggest

oilfields in the world, are still burning out of control, their orange flames reflected in lakes of crude spilling from fractured well-heads.

Pollution from the fires threatens the environment of the Gulf and a plume of smoke spreads as far south as Bahrain. In Iran, greasy black rain has ruined crops.

Syrians fume at view over Golan

FROM ADAM KELLER IN QUNEITRA

IF PRESIDENT Assad gets his way, the minefields and UN soldiers separating Israel and Syria will be moved west, and the Golan Heights will again be his. But given the vista of Israel from Syria none of this is likely to happen soon. From the UN post behind the devastated Syrian city of Quneitra, the Jewish settlements look permanent.

In the distance vehicles constantly plied the roads towards verdant agricultural settlements hewn from the slopes of Ein Siwan hill, atop which sits a radar station built to snoop on Syria. About 200 yards away the Israeli flag fluttered at the rival border post, separated by a minefield.

To a Syrian, the tranquil vista induces anger. "It is our land," hissed our government minder, Bassam, a hitherto calm character who suddenly began flailing his arms in a display of pique. "It was stolen from us."

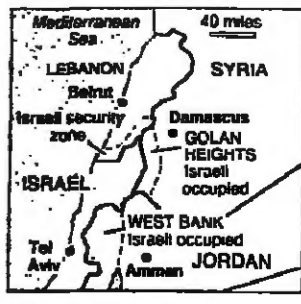
Israel conquered the Golan Heights in the 1967 war, knocking out the Syrian artillery that for years had rained shells on the Jewish state. A truce engineered by Henry Kissinger in 1973 saw the Israelis return about 450sq km of Syrian territory but retain the strategic heights. Today the enemies are separated by a buffer zone operated by UN soldiers and the frontier is one of Israel's quietest, with Syria only being the launching pad

for cross-border raids by freelance guerrillas on the rare occasions when Damascus does not hear of the strikes.

If the peace process gets under way, Syria hopes that it will deliver its biggest prize - the return of the Golan which is a matter of personal pride for President Assad who was defence minister when it fell. In a recent interview, he said: "If Israel is not going to quit the occupied land why should we want peace?"

The only way Israel would cede control would be if the heights was totally demilitarised but Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, has maintained that it is not up for negotiation, making any talks a non-starter from President Assad's point of view. But with Iraq emasculated, Syria remains the only Arab nation that can really threaten Israel.

An agreement between the two would give the Jewish state the peace it has not enjoyed since its creation in 1948: the effective end of the regional Arab strategy to annihilate Israel.



Clifford Longley

By retaining their prejudices, churches warp the history of English Christianity

Martin Luther and Ignatius Loyola were contemporaries. In 1562, one of the early Jesuits, Jeronimo Nadal, wrote of the two of them: "In that same year that Luther was called by the devil, Ignatius was called by God." Early Lutherans thought much the same in reverse, for the Society of Jesus was one of the first and most dramatic results of the Counter-Reformation. All Europe became a battlefield — theologically and sometimes literally — and each side argued and fought as if the survival of Christianity itself were at stake. For so they believed.

All that is over, or so says the conventional wisdom. But European men are increasingly taking a third option, neither Catholic nor Protestant but secular. The Reformation is declared over, the Counter-Reformation wound up, yet somewhere in the heart of all those taking the secular road is the attitude of "a plague on both their houses". The survival of Christianity was indeed at stake in these old quarrels, but not in the way the adversaries imagined. The division of the churches, and their unresolved history of mutual strife, remains their single least attractive feature. And try as they might, they cannot overcome it.

For all that new ecumenical goodwill, the churches insist on holding each other at arm's length. All the early hopes of "one great church" by 1960, 1980, or the year 2000 have come to naught. Schemes for church unity have lost their lustre, for they have been tried too often without success.

Officially, where they fail is over some difference of doctrine or practice, which one side or the other regards as a compromise too many. In reality, however, they fail because they run straight into the historical buffers. And so they always will, until the history is revised and hearts are warmed with new insight.

Yet the role of historical revisionism in fostering the ecumenical movement has hardly been recognised. Churches are not mere collections of individuals; they are communities with collective memories. What they remember most clearly is how they began. And most new denominations began as a protest against something older and larger, which was deemed corrupt. In their foundation documents, and therefore in their present identity, is the deep conviction "we were right and they were wrong".

Even now, nine out of ten religious books and articles on historical themes are written for a readership of one persuasion only, that of the author. Their authors continue to recycle the received prejudices of their own groups — usually believing their own version of events is the only one possible, quite ignorant of the alternative beliefs in the church down the road. More perniciously, they treat their subjects so nar-

rowly that anybody from a different background is crudely excluded.

So the only people doing anything at all for the hungry children of London in the 19th century were the Evangelicals or Roman Catholics or Methodists or Tractarians or Salvation Army — according to the version in question. And it is hardly surprising that these denominations are still capable of seeing their role in society from behind these same blinkers, as if they alone faced the problems. They all have separate histories of the same period, and for a religious hero to be admired, he or she must be of the same religious clan as the admirer.

Even football supporters are less narrow-minded. In all other spheres, a century or two is enough to dissolve partisanship, and past great men and women of politics, science and literature (and sport) belong to everyone. But which English Catholic ever heard of George Whitefield, which Anglican of Bishop Challoner, which of either of James Bunting? They have been excluded from the

collective memory of the nation, the property still of only their own factions. Yet these three — and there are many more such names in the annals of the major denominations — are among the most important figures in the religious history of England since the Reformation. Omitting any of them means producing a partial history, and partial history is untrue history.

There are exceptions. For instance, the latest edition of *The Month*, published by the English Jesuits, contains a generous appreciation of Luther by Philip Endean SJ of Heythrop College. He and St Ignatius faced similar problems, writes Father Endean: their world

was in cultural ferment, and they came to not dissimilar solutions. "Are we prepared to let God mould us anew, as he remoulded the medieval church through figures like Luther and Ignatius?" he asks, cancelling at last Nadal's fiercely unfair judgment. But this trans-denominational approach to religious history remains as rare as it is refreshing.

Doctrinal revisionism has done its best for ecumenism, and its achievements are considerable. The same revisionist task is needed in the communities which hold their beliefs, and needed for their own histories and myths. Churches can only unite by sharing their stories. The official history of Christianity in England must become wider than the story of the Church of England, and the unofficial story of schism, dissent, disaffection and recalcitrance woven into it.

In due course all these separate histories must be merged in a single sequential tale, the property of all the churches equally. And then, finally, this one story can become the property of the nation, the true religious component of English history.



Ignatius Loyola (top) and Martin Luther: everybody's heroes

Michael Wood journeys back from a modern battlefield to lament the rape of an ancient civilisation

By the ruins of Babylon

For most of us, television images of the Gulf war were the first real look at the south Iraqi landscape: dust-blown Shia refugees at US checkpoints in sight of the ziggurat of Ur of the Chaldees, the city of Abraham. But when the Western powers came to wage war here this year, they were returning to the root of their own civilisation.

The world's first true cities were built here around 3000BC by the Sumerians. A mysterious gifted people whose language has no known affinity, the Sumerians invented writing and created the first law, science and much else besides. Hard-bitten realists when it came to human nature, they told a wonderful myth about the beginning of civilisation which reads like a metaphor for Iraq's brilliant but tragic history.

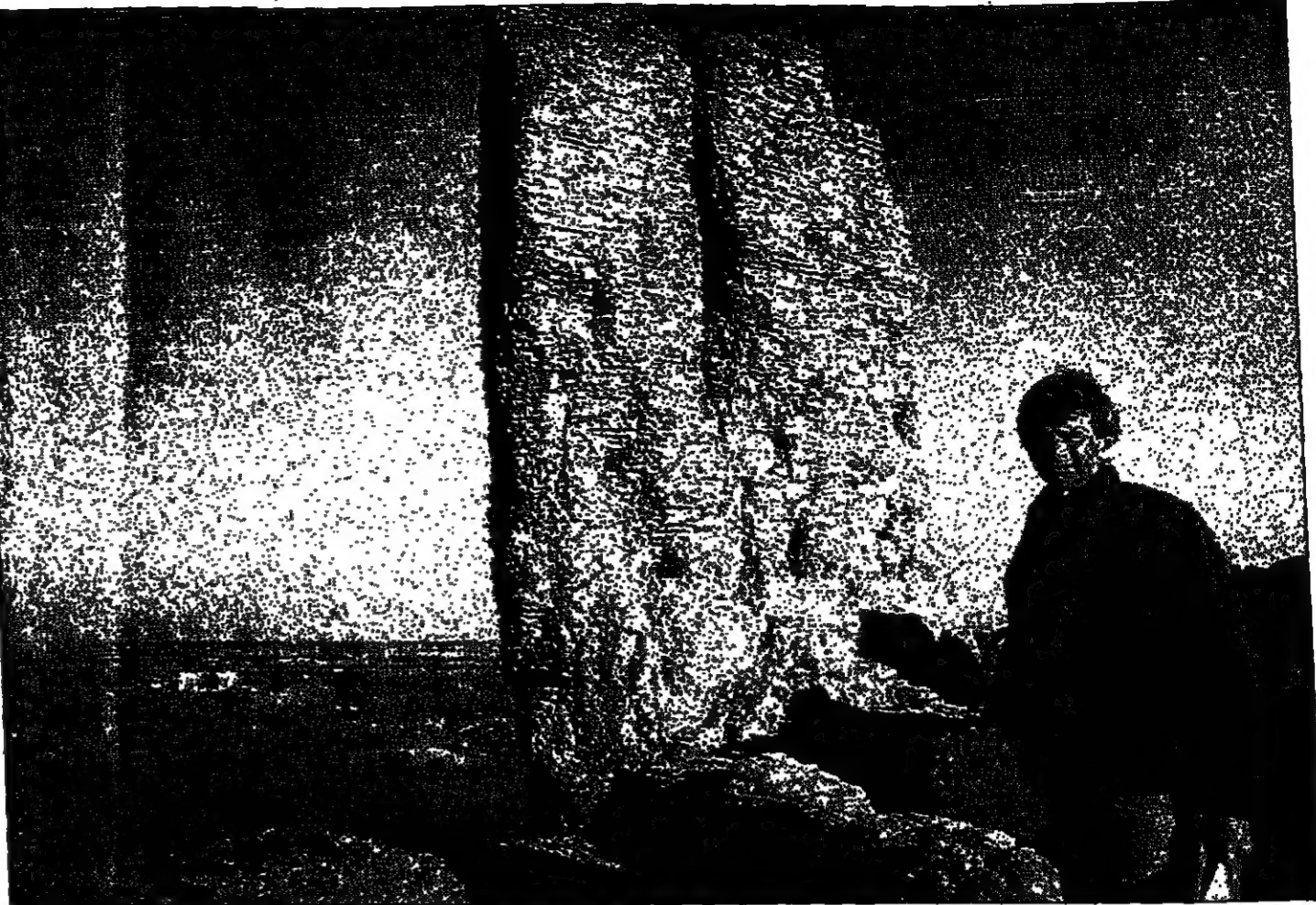
The arts of civilisation — the essential qualities which they thought made up civilised life — were zealously guarded by Enki, the God of Wisdom, in the ancient shrine of Eridu. The oldest temple in the south, Eridu was the site of the Tree of Life, situated literally in the Garden of Eden (Edin being the Sumerian name for the wild grassland beyond the ordered fields around the first cities). In the myth, the goddess Inanna, sexy, fecund and dangerous, got old Enki drunk one night and persuaded him to share his precious secret, his knowledge of the arts of civilisation. Here were the delights of society: exquisite craftsmanship, beautiful clothes, the arts of sex and music. "There was the art of being kind, the art of being ruthless, the art of straight-forwardness, the art of deceit."

As the list lengthens, the paradoxes pile up: "There was the art of rejoicing, the kindling of strife, the plundering of cities, the setting up of lamentation, fear, pity, terror." All this was civilisation, said the God of Wisdom: "All this I give you, but once taken you cannot give them back." With that, Inanna hurried back to her city, Uruk, whence the fatal arts spread to the whole world.

The heartland of cities, Iraq's deep south, is now a wild desert where ferocious sandstorms can blow up in an instant. Around Eridu, debris from as early as 5000BC lies at the foot of the temple hill. This was a military post in the war with Iran, and on its summit, ancient remains mingle with bull-dust bins and signal wire.

All the cities of Sumer were destroyed around 2000BC by invaders from Iran and the desert. The south never regained its independence, although its people have constantly resisted oppressive rule from the north, right up to the Shia revolt of 1991. Many of the later rulers of Iraq were foreign — Persians, Greeks, Parthians, Arabs — and all presided over great periods of art and culture.

After the Islamic conquest, Baghdad was the centre of a tremendous flowering of Islamic humanism and science. At this time, the city was called by a Persian geographer "the most prosperous on earth, a seat of scholars and great riches". By then the old towns of the south had gone, but in the schools of Baghdad, the Mesopotamian legacy was passed on in medicine, mathematics, astronomy and even in Hellenism and gnosticism. Baghdad was sacked in 1258 by



Monument to a lost culture: Michael Wood before the ziggurat of Ur of the Chaldees, southern Iraq, on the eve of the Gulf war

the Mongols. Its libraries were wrecked and its irrigation system ruined. "Even if no evil befell Iraq for another thousand years," said a witness, "it would still never come back to what it was." This catastrophe, one of so many in Iraqi history, left its mark upon our century. Afterwards, the land was exploited and brutalised, a mere ghost of its past. The discovery of oil would change all this.

In time, British colonial rule was followed by the rule of the Baathists, and the old pattern of Iraqi history repeated itself. Although this is the land which invented law so that "the strong might not oppress the weak", it seems destined to be ruled either by exploitative foreigners or native military dynasties.

The ordinary people of Iraq have always been left to suffer. Hard-bitten and resilient, their character is evident in collections of jokes and proverbs from nearly 4,000 years ago. Exactly the same sentiments can be found in proverbs from medieval Baghdad:

"Rather the abuse of power than the fairness of subjects. 'If you're an avvil, suffer, if you're a stick, make someone else suffer.' 'Worship the monkey when he is all-powerful.' It's easy to find such ironic acceptance of the worst in any case on the Tigris today, though there are no jokes about Saddam in public in the new Iraq, jokes are death."

It is easy to forget that Iraq is a pluralist society and always has been. Its population is Arab, Kurdish, Turkoman, Persian, with many smaller minorities. In Mosul, there are several different Christian churches, Chaldean, Syrian, Armenian and Latin. In Baghdad, the Mandaeans still practice full immersion in the Tigris, with rituals in Mandaic, a language related to the Aramaic that Jesus spoke.

There are even a couple of thousand Jews left in Baghdad: remnant of the once-great Jewish culture of Iraq, whose 2,500-year-old history ended in the 1950s with the departure of more than

100,000 people to Israel. Theirs was a glorious history. The great Talmud was written in Iraq in the first centuries after Christ, and in the Middle Ages one might properly speak of a Judeo-Islamic culture here.

The Kurds — Muslims but not Arabs — make up 20 per cent of the population; the ruling Sunni Arabs account for only perhaps 10 or 15 per cent. The majority — two-thirds of the people — speak Arabic but are descended not from the Arab conquerors of the 7th century but from the original native Mesopotamian population of the south. These are the Shia, whose story has been one of recurring persecution by their fellow Muslims, though their culture has preserved many rich legacies from the pre-Islamic past.

The Shias have had to show tenacity over a very long time. As early as the 9th century, Kerbala was wrecked and deliberately flooded by one Sunni Caliph, who forbade pilgrimage to the spot. In the early 19th century, the icono-

clastic Wahabis sacked the inner shrine of Imman Hussein himself. So Saddam's devastation of the sacred city is in a long tradition of Mesopotamian rulers crushing the Shias, and before them the people of the old south. After 1,300 years, we are still witnessing the aftermath of the original Arab conquest of Iraq.

Since the allied victory in the Gulf, the Baghdad regime has wrecked Shia mosques and religious libraries across the south, and bulldozed cemeteries. The ancient theological university at Najaf is closed, and the Shia call to prayer banned. When Saddam's tanks rolled into Kerbala to quell the March uprising, many bore placards proclaiming "No more Shi'ites after today".

It is hard not to feel outrage at the torments inflicted on the long-suffering Iraqi people in the present war and its aftermath, which has left Saddam in power and his republican guard largely intact. "I know there are many good men and women among the Iraqi people," said a rheumy-eyed Baghdad scholar one night overlooking the Tigris. "I hope one day they may enjoy the freedoms that you do."

His predecessors, of course, would not be surprised by the events of 1991. In 1258, one wrote of "these fools who destroy the treasures of knowledge and learning". He went on: "I thought I understood the world, but this violence is so pointless that I am struck dumb." Back in the second millennium BC, the tale was the same: "Once upon a time, you Sumers set the ideals of civilisation upon humankind, lofty ideals robed in enduring light — once upon a time when there was no fear, no terror."

The author is presenter of *Legacy*, which is broadcast on ITV, Tuesdays at 10.40pm.

Filming in Saddam Hussein's Iraq

I remember a night under the stars in the southern marshes, eating fish cooked in a clay kiln by the daughter of a marsh Arab. On the eastern horizon, distant flickering fires marked where Saddam's troops were hounding down deserters from the war with Iran. Next day at the governorate in Nasiriyah, an army officer whispered: "Film the marshes while you can — they won't be here much longer." And by Christmas 1989, the levee road all the way to Jubailah was surrounded by dry land. Up in the mountains of Kurdistan there was one memorable

afternoon when the sheikh of the Yezidis — the so-called "devil worshippers" — held a feast for our film crew in a lovely spot surrounded by oak and juniper. Beyond, rumbling distant gunfire: tests for the supergun.

Filming in Iraq was a constant thrill and a constant headache. Our security minder, Muhammad, was forever throwing himself in front of the cameras. The ancient streets of Irbil were "too primitive". Baghdad was out of bounds ("We don't have them in Iraq"). Black-clad Shiite women in Kerbala were "dirty". Poor Muhammad. One night

we sat over a beer in a funny old hotel in Samawa. "You don't like me, Mr Michael," he fretted. "It's not that, Muhammad," I fumed. "But you always try and stop us filming the ordinary people of Iraq." He stared into his beer, tagging nervously at the Saddam moustache sported by all Baathist functionaries. Then as he often would, tried to make me smile by quoting Keats. "You see, Mr Michael," a friend chimed in, "he knows you are only trying to do your job. But the lives of his children are in your hands." Saddam's rule of fear continues.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

I weigh nine stone and stand 5ft 8ins in my stocking feet. This matters, as you will shortly hear when I tell you about parasailing off Turkey, and how I nearly didn't come down.

Within some small men is a big man struggling to get out. People who laugh when I stoop under 7ft doorways do not understand. I feel like a giant. Among my own tribe I am of astonishing size. Neither grandmother reached five foot. My father, mother and five siblings are virtually midgets. In family wedding photos I appear as a mutant colossus. So when the man behind the placard — "Parasailing, 100,000 lire" — asked: "Which biggest? I tell instructors for arrange parachute," I unhesitatingly replied: "Medium."

"Return five minutes for boat," he said. "With money." Easy! I congratulated myself for choosing parasailing rather than the banana. The banana is all the rage on Turkish beaches this summer. About 10ft long, with five fun-seekers astride, the inflated yellow tube is towed behind a speedboat zooming over the waves as the banana threshes and rolls until they fall off, screaming. In England of course, someone would have drowned and (though the victim later turned out to be an asthmatic heart patient suffering from giddy spells whom doctors had given two months to live), Esther Rantzen and a *Daily Mail* campaign would have contrived

to have the bananas banned. I was absent from our cove when the banana called. So on my last day I decided to try parasailing. This (for the old fogies among you) means being towed on a rope by a speedboat with an open parachute trailing in the wind behind you, until you take off.

I returned with the money, the equivalent of about £13, which seemed good value for what the man said would be "about ten minutes" in the air.

Curiously, there were no forms to fill in about one's health, no disclaimers and no insurance. There was just a Turk with an outboard motorboat. I boarded. We rode across to the other side of the bay where, in the shallows by a beach fronted by a string of overhead power lines, a speedboat waited. Its motors gurgled and the sea frothed behind it as it marked time, straining against a stiff breeze and a tow rope. Attached to the other end of the tow rope was a parachute, canopy inflated and hovering in the wind while a man struggled to hold on to it, gripping a harness into which I was manhandled without a word. Nobody spoke English, anyway.

How was I to learn? Should we try French, or would they show me pictures? There was a shout of "Yah!", the engine roared, the rope lunged forward, the rope snapped tight and I found myself harnessed and pulled, rumbling through the shallows...and I was up, up and away. And up.

And up. I went straight up into the sky, like a rocket. They played out more rope, and still I rose. Within seconds I seemed to be almost vertically above the boat staring down hundreds of feet with a kite-eye view down the line towing me. At the other end I could see the boat, tiny now, plunging through the waves. I could see the whole bay. I could see the Greek islands, miles away. I could hear nothing but the wind in my ears as I swung, suspended, beneath my canopy. I began to feel slightly air-sick. It was wonderful. And it just went on and on.

And on. They couldn't get me down. I was lighter than they had allowed for, and the headwind stronger. Every time the boat stopped in the middle of the bay to allow the parachute to descend and deposit me in the shallows, I just stayed up. Every time the boat reversed to let me run with the wind, I began to overheat the shallows and approach the power lines on the beach. Every time the boat lunged forward again to pull me clear of these, I went up again. I began to look as though you columnist would become a permanent fixture above the Turkish coast, a sort of perpetual kite, an airborne advertisement for *The Times*.

Sadly, all good things come to an end. Pulling on various ropes in response to desperate shouts from the ground finally brought me down. With a gentle splash, I landed, just before nightfall. I'm not sure I wanted to.

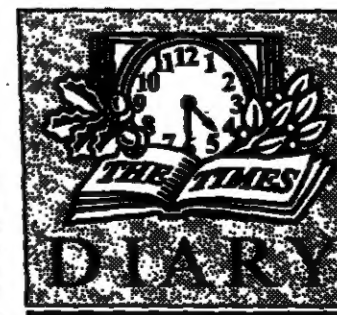
Art of refuse collecting

A CLEANER at Christie's may soon become the unlikely owner of a sketch by Pablo Picasso. The art of refuse collecting was discovered six months ago, in a skip at the back of the London auction house, by an long-serving elderly cleaner. Nobody has reported it missing and, in spite of extensive appeals through the London art world, nobody has come forward to reclaim it.

The cleaner has hardly breathed a word about his discovery. "He is a bit overwhelmed by it all," says one Christie's employee. "It's all been a bit much for him. He is trying to stay out of the limelight." At first the cleaner thought the 9½ in by 6½ in drawing, depicting a Greek couple in an embrace with a child, was worthless. But he decided to hand it in to his employers just in case. After a series of exhaustive tests, it was confirmed as a Picasso from the artist's "Lysistrata" series of 150 drawings.

Vine Street police station is now the temporary custodian of the work of art, worth perhaps £3,000. But if the rightful owner does not come forward within the next month, it will be hanging over the cleaner's mantelpiece, temporarily at least. Then it will probably be auctioned by Christie's, and the cleaner is planning to give the money raised to charity. "I don't think Picasso is his favourite artist," says another of Christie's employees.

Scotland Yard, which is as bemused as Christie's as to why nobody has reported it missing, says: "If they come bearing proof of ownership they can take the drawing away there and then. We have become quite attached to it. It would look nice on our wall."



While yesterday's inflation figures showed another welcome downturn in the cost of living, the cost of dying is less willing to subside. *Dignity in Death*, which runs burial budget schemes, is running magazine advertisements predicting that the cost of today's average funeral, £900, will rise to £2,074 in 10 years: an annual rise of 10 per cent. Anybody who signs up friends or neighbours to one of the pay-early schemes will receive a £15 Marks & Spencer gift voucher.

Maestro revisited

AN unflattering biography of Sir Yehudi Menuhin, which was dropped by Weidenfeld & Nicolson earlier this year after threats of legal action from the violinist, is being published by a rival next month.

Tony Palmer's book, *Menuhin: A Family Portrait*, challenges the saintly image of the composer built up over the last 60 years since he became a child prodigy. It rejects Menuhin's assertion of a "golden" childhood, and questions why people still call him a great violinist.

lacks "objectivity or historical authenticity". Faber & Faber is now publishing it with a number of alterations. The book says that the composer's childhood days were often "unrelenting agony". Menuhin has seen the revised manuscript. The chairman of Faber, Matthew Evans, says: "We had to include the sections on Sir Yehudi's childhood and his playing ability, for the book would have been destroyed without them."

Unforeseen demands

EVEN life on the other side has been affected by the recession. The latest issue of *Psychic News* reveals that mediums are being forced to freeze their fees or even cut them to try to generate more business.

Peter Close, a London medium, who charges £20 for an hour-long sitting, admits the spiritualist

Are you the Soul occupant?



world is facing bad times. "Business is lower than it has been. With the recession this year I decided to leave prices where they were."

But the recession has generated work from a more unusual quarter: businessmen seeking help. Close says: "People don't just come to you for survival evidence."

Many want more than a talk with mum and dad. They have financial and business problems." But spiritualists are being urged not to dispense remedies from the spirit world. Robert Harick, who runs training courses for mediums, says: "Mediums should be asked for advice about spiritual life, not economic matters."

No strings attached

MUSICAL history was made at the Edinburgh festival earlier this week when a troupe of Cambridge dons performed a Mozart composition which has been lost to the world since 1783. *The Masquerade for the Emperor's Ball* was penned as a string quartet for a pantomime. It was performed only once because three sections of the music were mislaid.

It is being performed as a six-minute harpsichord solo with dance, in *Wolfgang!* directed by Ralph Pite, an English tutor at Corpus Christi. Pite found a letter in the Cambridge archives from Mozart to his father which refers to the piece. His colleague Paul Henry filled in the missing parts, using the surviving first violin music.

H.C. Robbins Landon, compiler of *The Mozart Compendium*, confirms that the piece has not been performed since the composer's death, but argues that it should have been performed by an orchestra. "Why are they playing it on one harpsichord? Did they run out of money?"

Is it normal to smash milk-bottles against the wall in times of high stress? Norma Major seems to think so. She reveals in next month's *Woman's Journal* that on occasion she has resorted to a spot of bottle-throwing, or indeed book-throwing, as a means of letting off steam. However, the prime minister is not in her sights.



WAY OFF TARGET

At one point in his evidence to the Commons defence committee last month the normally equable defence secretary, Tom King, made exasperated reference to "those who delight in suggesting every time I open my mouth that it is the voice of the Treasury bursting to break free." The cuts set out in his 1991 white paper, he insisted, were "strategy led but resource disciplined". They were aimed at smaller but more flexible and better equipped forces.

Not so, thundered the committee yesterday. The white paper might lay down the shape and size of British forces in the 1990s but it lacked a "coherent strategic overview". More recognition of the need for a strategy was "not in itself a strategy". The military implications of the cuts "remain shrouded in vagueness".

Above all, continued the committee, there was no hint of a financial strategy for the decade, and it was "high time" Parliament was told when spending cuts would end and at what level. Unrealistic assumptions about inflation in the Budget would, it warned, force Mr King either to overspend this year or to renege on his commitment to improve the equipment of Britain's forces.

The nub of the committee's case is that ministers have left British forces with the same broad range of commitments, while cutting manpower by a fifth. Its conclusion, that the government must either find more money or "take the political decision to reduce or abandon" some commitments is simplistic. This sort of talk reads like old-fashioned service lobbying. Commons select committees must be careful not to become such prisoners of their lobbies as to render them useless.

The services play the game by magnifying the difficulty of defending Northern Ireland, the Falklands, Hong Kong and Belize, contributing adequately to Nato, and holding forces in reserve for unexpected military, humanitarian and even drug-busting emergencies on the existing budget. Ministers are then hounded to suggest "commitments" that should be reduced in line with reduced resources, at which point the lobbyists call down the wrath of public and politicians on

the heads of the unfortunate ministers to get the commitment restored. The annual battle over HMS Endeavour, the ice patrol ship in the South Atlantic, is a case in point.

The "Options for Change" programme has put new relish into this ancient sport. Where, it is asked, is the "radical strategic reassessment" which should accompany so savage a pruning of service budgets and manpower? How can it be that the only commitment which has been axed under "Options for Change" is the UK Mobile Force earmarked for Norway's defence? In vain does Mr King point out that Britain's most manpower-consuming commitment has indeed been radically reduced. Nato's decision that a massive surprise attack in Europe is not on the cards permits 33,000 troops to be pulled out of Germany and the RAF's air defence role there to be phased out. By 1995 three quarters of the army and 90 per cent of the RAF will be UK-based.

The white paper's response to other risks — which are, as Mr King says, "far less obvious and monolithic" than in the Cold War — is to tighten force structures. The role of the new Rapid Reaction Corps (RRC), which will incorporate much of the deployable strength of the army and most of its amphibious capability, needs to be further considered. But the services lobby should note its central message: that outside the United Kingdom British forces will rarely be acting alone. Their job will be "to contribute to multinational formations" with forces equipped to face "high-intensity conflict".

The implication is revolutionary, as the multinational composition of the RRC indicates. At least part of the storm that has broken over Mr King results not from his alleged failure to provide a strategic overview, but from his insistence that strategy is now necessarily a pooled undertaking. The services do not like this idea. To be sure, Mr King has bones to pick with the Treasury, and it with him. But the defence committee has selected the wrong bones. In its subservience to the more reactionary service elements it has shirked the sort of reassessment it should be helping to make.

THE FEAR OF MURDER

This summer "is becoming one of the most tragic for children on record" wrote one newspaper yesterday. According to another, "anxious parents locked their children indoors after another youngster was brutally murdered." A third asked readers to "weep for our children" and to vote for or against the delicately balanced question: "Should hanging be brought back for brutes who murder our little ones?" Television news has added its own brand of hysterical anguish.

Sadly, many parents who previously thought nothing of letting their children play outside unsupervised will now keep them indoors, fearing that a mass murderer lurks behind every hedge. Of course the killing or abduction of a child is a horrible crime. The poor parents of these killed in the past few days may be haunted by the conviction that, had they been more careful, their children would still be alive. But what purpose is served by adding to their guilt, or by causing every other parent a fear wholly out of proportion to the risk?

In 1989, 71 children under the age of 16 were murdered. That was the second lowest total since 1979 and the figure has fluctuated, seemingly at random, between 60 and 103 over the decade. There is no sign that this year's total is at all out of line with recent years; conclusions to the contrary are irresponsible. In addition, many of the children were killed by their own parents or step-parents, or even siblings. The proportion killed by those unknown to them was small. Most children, it must be said, would be safer playing outside than in the home.

The 71 child victims of murder are a tiny fraction of the 8,000 children under 16 who died in 1989 from all causes. More than half the total were aged under one and died of natural causes. Children are four times more

likely to die from disease than from accidents or violence. Of these unnatural deaths, accidents are by far the more common cause. A thousand children a year die accidentally; half of them on the roads. But still the chances of a child dying are only one in 4,000 once he or she has survived the first year of life.

Being a child has never been safer, thanks mainly to medical advances. At the turn of the century, 135,000 babies died a year, compared with under 6,000 in 1989. And there were 43,000 deaths of children aged one to 14, compared with just over 2,000 now. Even in the past decade, infant mortality rates have fallen by a quarter.

There is no good reason for encouraging otherwise responsible parents to believe that the world has become more dangerous for their children. Yet publicity like that this week could deny children the pleasure of the outdoors and of independent play and self-reliance. It may make them morbidly fearful of adults. The boundary between sensible caution and hysteria, about child abuse and abduction as well as about health and safety, is a hard one to draw. But parents should be encouraged to examine the truth of the matter, not a ridiculous exaggeration of it. The best hope of a child surviving to maturity is in immunisation against avoidable disease, safety in the home, and security on public roads, whether as pedestrians, car passengers or, most of all, as cyclists.

Children who are locked indoors by fearful parents against the perils of psychopaths might well retort that it is the parents, not they, who need protecting. The chances of a child aged between five and 15 being murdered are three in a million: their parents are five times more likely to suffer a similar fate.

WHY NOT LONDON TOO?

Paul Simon is a famous son of Queens, New York, who is grateful to the city for his success. So on Thursday night he gave a free pop concert in Central Park and three quarters of a million people came to the party. He gave a similar concert ten years ago with his friend Art Garfunkel. They do things like that there. The open warm-heartedness of America at such times is enviable.

New Yorkers, aggressive egalitarians, would not however tolerate special (paid for) seats for VIPs at free public shows, as at the recent Pavarotti concert in Hyde Park. They know who owns Central Park — they do, the people. It is a place reserved for them to chase after the third clause of the American Dream, the "pursuit of happiness". And in a city where cash is supposed to measure the value of everything, most of the happiness to be had in Central Park comes free. It is all gratefully snatched.

When Leonard Bernstein took the New York Philharmonic into Central Park for a free public concert for the first time in 1974, 130,000 turned out to hear him. The Metropolitan Opera regularly ventures forth to packed houses (or lawns) and there is now a tradition of open-air free symphony concerts in all five New York boroughs. There are free classical concerts at the Naumburg Band-shell in the Park. Lower down the scale, free jazz in the park is a daily routine, and not all the players are amateur. But the Central Park cultural pearl is free open-air theatre, led by the famous annual "Shakespeare in the Park" festival.

By no means is high culture diluted to

meet popular taste. New Yorkers demand the best: though they tolerate ingenious improvements on straight Shakespeare (or Gilbert and Sullivan). A recent Brazilian version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* had five of its 150 minutes in the nude ("A Play That Won't Clothes", said one reviewer) but it was uncompromisingly in Portuguese with neither translations nor subtitles. These free Joseph Papp productions in the Delacorte Theater in Central Park — to get tickets people do not pay, they just queue — have frequently moved on to Broadway, occasionally further still to London.

Doing good deeds free for the people of New York is a long and live tradition. Business accepts that supporting public culture is something to be undertaken willingly. Central Park, bought to foster the "tranquility and rest of the mind" of the common people for \$5 million in 1856 and inspired by the work of Capability Brown, is at the heart of this tradition. Because they are in New York, these open-air productions take a sniff of adrenalin from the city air, a taut handshake between audience and players that exhilarates art and people.

The July Pavarotti concert in Hyde Park showed what could be possible in London, too, rain or not. The occasional military band is no comparison with the horn of cultural plenty New Yorkers can draw from. Last month the government appointed a panel to report on ways of developing London's marvellous royal parks. A trip to Central Park would be no bad way for the panel to launch its task.

Commons pay and productivity

From Mr John Weatherill
Sir, Sir Roy Strong's plea ("Mortgaged to the past", August 10) that we look ahead for architectural inspiration would be admirable were it calculated to promote a more balanced architectural scene. What a pity that, where he makes so many good points, particularly on our right to be kept informed on planning decisions, he has this pet hate about "heritage".

If Sir Roy envisions creative design only at a cost to our architectural heritage — which he disparages as a "British obsession" — then what he calls the "built environment" will be thrown off balance the other way, with historic buildings once again falling prey to the bulldozer.

Yet there need be no tug of war. Innovation and preservation can co-exist, and it is surely desirable that they do so. To answer Sir Roy's own question: no, the status quo is not immutable. Through education born of constructive debate we might easily enjoy the best of both architectural worlds, as the French do.

Contrary to the view of Professor David Lowenthal, whom Sir Roy quotes, it is ourselves, not the Italians, who are the real culprits in not knowing how to look after the past properly. The Italians (and the French) preserve the antiquity of their old buildings by sensitive restoration, and by knowing when to leave well alone, whereas we are much too inclined to sterilise by over-restoration. Add to that abuse the quantities of lurid yellow paint with which we decorate our roads and precincts, and the air of mystery which comes with antiquity and should be holding us in awe is totally destroyed.

Yours etc.,
TIM SMITH,
House of Commons.

From Mr Alan Stubbs
Sir, It has been proposed that the lobbies and bars of the Palace of Westminster be made available to former MPs of 15 years' standing so that they can, as it were, treat it like a club (August 8).

By all means welcome them to the House on the same basis as the general public for that is what they are. They are not more or less. There are already plenty of places for meals, conversation, etc. — let local business benefit.

Given the low profile and lack of achievement between elections of some MPs it seems that you don't need to be an ex-MP to treat the place as a club rather than as a place of work.

I remain, yours sincerely,
ALAN STUBBS,
63 Old Castle Walk,
Parkwood, Rainham, Kent.
August 12.

From Sir Kenneth Lewis
Sir, Whether or not retired MPs are allowed access to the lobbies and bars of Westminster is less important than the quality, background and independence of mind of their successors.

The nation needs in Parliament a broad cross-section of men and women involved in the various activities which make up our national life. Replacement candidates for the Conservative party in the safer seats for the next general election seem to me to be somewhat identical: male, Oxbridge, barristers, former advisers to ministers or to Downing Street; not much sign of cross-section or knowledge and experience of business and industry, on which the country depends.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH LEWIS
(MP (Conservative) for Rutland and Stamford, 1959-83; for Stamford and Spalding, 1983-7).
Redlands, Preston, Rutland.
August 15.

From Mr Michael Ryle
Sir, John Grigg (article, August 13) may well be right to urge Parliament to sit more often to keep ministers under scrutiny, but his statement that it should sit for less than half the year" should be examined. In session 1988-9, covering 51 weeks, the Commons sat on 175 days in 37 weeks, for an average of 9 hours 4 minutes per sitting day (including the short sittings on Fridays). In session 1989-90, covering 49 weeks, the equivalent figures were 167 days in 36 weeks, averaging 8 hours 48 minutes per day.

Unless one counts the hours and includes nights, or unless one includes non-working days such as weekends and bank holidays — which would be unfair — Grigg's charge is manifestly untrue. The British Parliament sits as long as any in the world.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL RYLE,
Jasmine Cottage, Winsford,
Minchhead, Somerset.
August 13.

Share-shop scheme

From Mr S. M. Yassukovich
Sir, The share-shop concept created by the government for the second tranche of the BT privatisation (Business, report and comment, August 13) is a welcome advance on the primitive offer-for-sale system with its heavy reliance on TV marketing hype. However, the attempt to link this marketing technique with the broader aim of wider share ownership is misconceived.

The government shows no sign that it understands share ownership in the first place and therefore its various attempts to develop the share-owning habit in the public at large have failed. Making easier and

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

Balance, not tug of war, on heritage

From Mr John Weatherill
Sir, Sir Roy Strong's plea ("Mortgaged to the past", August 10) that we look ahead for architectural inspiration would be admirable were it calculated to promote a more balanced architectural scene. What a pity that, where he makes so many good points, particularly on our right to be kept informed on planning decisions, he has this pet hate about "heritage".

If Sir Roy envisions creative design only at a cost to our architectural heritage — which he disparages as a "British obsession" — then what he calls the "built environment" will be thrown off balance the other way, with historic buildings once again falling prey to the bulldozer.

Yet there need be no tug of war. Innovation and preservation can co-exist, and it is surely desirable that they do so. To answer Sir Roy's own question: no, the status quo is not immutable. Through education born of constructive debate we might easily enjoy the best of both architectural worlds, as the French do.

Contrary to the view of Professor David Lowenthal, whom Sir Roy quotes, it is ourselves, not the Italians, who are the real culprits in not knowing how to look after the past properly. The Italians (and the French) preserve the antiquity of their old buildings by sensitive restoration, and by knowing when to leave well alone, whereas we are much too inclined to sterilise by over-restoration. Add to that abuse the quantities of lurid yellow paint with which we decorate our roads and precincts, and the air of mystery which comes with antiquity and should be holding us in awe is totally destroyed.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WEATHERILL,
Wythe Head, Kilmington, Wiltshire.
August 10.

From Mr Gary Halman
Sir, Sir Roy Strong made an important error in an otherwise excellent article. Planning commit-

tees in England and Wales do not deliberate behind closed doors. Since the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 planning and other council committees must be open to members of the public, as must all relevant background documents including council officers' reports, subject to certain special confidentiality provisions.

Yours faithfully,
G. HALMAN,
Spring Bank Farm,
Middlewich Road,
Nether Peover, Cheshire.
August 12.

From Lieutenant-Colonel G. G. Haythornthwaite
Sir, I was surprised to read in *The Times* of August 1 Marcus Binney's apparent approval of an office building in Hackney of which the facade consists of an "airy all-glass box stepped out over the pavement".

Modern ageing as complex and beautiful as that of a great India clipper". I thought this might have been an aberration, but not on August 13 he sees another worthy of his approval, "suggestive of a space station".

Has not Mr Binney touched the basic objection to Modern and Post Modern architecture, that such structures are out of their element; and that architectural felicity only occurs where a building reflects and reinforces the conditions of its siting: geology, contours, climate, and its well behaved neighbours.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD HAYTHORNTHWAITE,
22 Endcliffe Crescent, Sheffield.
August 13.

From Mrs Joan D. Bartlett
Sir, You do not say what Gareth Wright's building in Islington is. Is it a space station? Or are you offering a prize for the nearest guess?

Yours faithfully,
JOAN D. BARTLETT,
6 Willow End, Wollescote,
Stourbridge, West Midlands.

claim, saw its first expressions 90 years ago in the work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh in Scotland.

If you are right in suggesting that the design "reflects a Scotland of bleak castles and towers" then, for example, Mackintosh's art school in Glasgow can be said to evoke similar images. That building has been a source of public pride for generations as well as being admired by countless critics for the way in which it expresses such indigenous traits in an imaginative modern manner.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL FARR,
2 Splash Point, Cliff Road,
Seaford, Sussex.
August 15.

From Mr H. B. N. Grillo
Sir, "The public's right to an opinion" is constitutionally enshrined in the democratic process in the Town and Country Planning Act. Your leader writer may argue — and I would agree with him — that it does not work very well in practice. This is an argument for improving the process of public consultation under that statute. It is not an argument, surely, for ad hoc unconstitutional interventions by prince or public.

We do not run the country by referendum of royalty, the interested, obsessed and bystanders. Do you advocate that we control development that way?

Yours faithfully,
H. B. N. GRILLO,
29 Hemingford Road, Cambridge.
August 15.

angered by the conditions that he made his views public in a letter published in your newspaper (August 10, 1989). He received a reminder. Nothing happened. Nothing that is, until last year when the rioters took care of the problem by destroying the main wing of the prison. The buildings are now at work and proper sanitation is being installed.

Under the present regime, there is no chance of the prison medical service being properly supported with attention to status and liberal post-graduate training. It is time for the Home Office to relinquish control of the service and hand it over to the National Health Service.

Yours faithfully,
R. W. K. REEVES
(Consultant forensic psychiatrist),
Fromside Clinic,
Blackberry Hill,
Stapleton, Bristol, Avon.
August 13.

Tried by degrees of difference

From Viscount Norwich
Sir, Is there a word for those digital displays that we see more and more often on the sides of new buildings and that flash at us, in rapid succession, the date, the time and the temperature? Whatever they are called, many of your readers must have noticed three of them within about a quarter of a mile of each other on the M4, just as it enters London; one is on a business block, one on a garage, and one forms part of an advertisement for a fizzy drink.

On the matter of the date they invariably agree; on the time, too, there seems to be a fair measure of unanimity. The real trouble arises over the temperature. In the last six months I have driven past them on at least 50 occasions, and not once have I known two of the three to give the same figure. The difference is usually of at least four degrees centigrade; on one recent occasion the three readings were 20, 24 and 26 respectively.

The firms concerned have all presumably paid good money to provide a public service; at least two of them, however, are disseminating misleading information and creating nothing but confusion. And our poor first-time visitors driving in from Heathrow — what are they to think? They have doubtless all heard of our sudden changes of climate; but this, they must feel, is ridiculous.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN JULIUS NORWICH,
24 Blomfield Road, W9.
August 16.

Fame in a name
From Mr Lewis Cawthorn
Sir, His name and fame "would endure where and while audacity, courage and steadfastness were admired". He "knew, as anyone who understood power and dominance knew, that 'two stars keep not their motion in one sphere'". After an impressive series of victories, this "devoted servant of his country" was eventually defeated but "world history might have been very different" if he had listened to his generals. He "would have been a man who inspired devotion and to whom a lifelong allegiance would be sworn by all those who recognised his qualities".

Hannibal, whom Bernard Levin (August 12) so admires, or Hitler? Yours faithfully,
L. CAWTHORN,
10 Lansell Avenue,
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.
August 12.

From Mr D. G. R. Bantiff
Sir, Can Bernard Levin be sure that Hannibal's name should not be associated with the blood of murderers? In his second essay on anger, Seneca records a story that Hannibal, seeing a ditch full of human blood, said "What a beautiful sight". Yours faithfully,
D. G. R. BANTIFF,
5 Eversley Road, SE19.
August 12.

Immigration advice
From Mr David Lawton
Sir, The letter from Mr Peter Lloyd, Under Secretary of State at the Home Office (August 9), is disingenuous, to say the least. What proof is there that the United Kingdom Immigration Advisory Service provides "substantially better value" in its advice than do private solicitors?

Private practitioners, of whom about 420 across the country specialise in such cases, have cost the legal aid fund £2.6 million (an average cost of £184 per case) to deal with 14,660 such matters in the year 1990-1. This figure includes VAT which is repaid to the Treasury and disbursements which cover translators' fees, medical reports and DNA fingerprinting.

If the decision to remove the right of advice for those unfortunate people from a source of their choice is taken on financial grounds, as the minister would have us believe, then he'd better come up with the figures to justify what at present appears to be a specious claim.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LAWTON (Chairman,
Legal Aid Practitioners Group),
2 Tindal Street, Chelmsford, Essex.
August 12.

But do keep it short

From Mr D. J. Gibbons
Sir, I am increasingly irritated by the treatment dished out by the media to a poor soul called "Briefly". Briefly is readily available for any interview but is never given the chance to express his view.

Harassment of Briefly is general, but is particularly prevalent in a certain early morning BBC Radio 4 news programme, as in: "Briefly you've just got 10 seconds to tell us how you would improve the Soviet economy, eliminate Britain's economic depression, cease the civil war in Yugoslavia, and explain how this might improve the baring average of England's cricketers".

Briefly is usually asked to appear just before the almighty weather forecast. If Briefly isn't given enough time to answer the question, the question shouldn't be asked.

Yours faithfully,
D. J. GIBBONS,
The First House,
The Street, St Nicholas-at-Wade,
Birmingham, Kent.
August 9.

Weekend Money letters, page 28



COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE

August 16: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh disembarked from HMV Britannia this morning at Aberdeen and were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the City of Aberdeen (Mr R.A. Robertson, the Lord Provost).

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness subsequently drove to Balmoral Castle.

Mrs John Dugdale, Sir Kenneth Scott and Wing Commander David Wink, RAF, were in attendance.

Anniversaries

Today
BIRTHS: Thomas Stothard, painter, London, 1759; William Carey, orientalist scholar, Paulerspury, Northamptonshire, 1761; Davy Crockett, frontiersman and politician, Tennessee, 1786; Wilfred Scawen Blunt, poet, Portworth House, Sussex, 1840; Oliver St John Gogarty, writer, Dublin, 1878.

DEATHS: John Gower, poet, London, 1408; Edward V, reigned 1483, London, 1483; Robert Blake, admiral, at sea, Plymouth, 1657; Frederick the Great, king of Prussia 1740-86, Potsdam, 1786; Fernand Léger, painter, Gif-sur-Yvette, 1955; Sir John Marshall, archaeologist, Guildford, Surrey, 1958; Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, architect, Chicago, 1969; Conrad Aiken, novelist and poet, Savannah, Georgia, 1973; Ira Gershwin, lyricist, Beverly Hills, California, 1983; Rudolf Heske, Spandau prison, Berlin, 1987; Harry Corbett, entertainer, 1989.

Construction of the Berlin Wall began, 1961.

Tomorrow
BIRTHS: Brook Taylor, mathematician, Edmonton, Middlesex, 1685; Antonio Salieri, composer, Legnano, Italy, 1757; Meriwether Lewis, explorer, Clarksville, Virginia, 1774; John Russell, Earl Russell, prime minister 1846-52, 1865-66, London, 1972; Marcel Carné, film director, Paris, 1909.

DEATHS: Genghis Khan, Mongol emperor 1175-1227, Mongolia, 1227; Guido Reni, painter, Bologna, 1642; James Beattie, poet, Aberdeen, 1803; Matthew Boulton, engineer, London, 1809; André-Jacques Garnerin, aeronaut, Paris, 1829; Honoré de Balzac, novelist, Paris, 1850; Sir William Fairbairn, Bt, engineer, Moor Park, Surrey, 1874; William Henry Hudson, author and naturalist, London, 1922; Sir Frederick Ashton, ballet dancer and choreographer, 1988.

Institute of Marine Engineers

The following have been elected fellows of the Institute of Marine Engineers and are entitled to use the designatory letters FIMarE:

Mr T. Best, R. H. Chubb, A. Farmer, J. Farrell-Dillon, D. M. Gregory, L. Holyoake, J. Kazim, W. M. Landells, J. E. Legg, C. Selva, Wong Sing Fun.

Appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr William Bala to be Chief Executive of the Royal Brompton National Heart and Lung Hospitals' special health authority, in succession to Mr John Plant.

Cannibalism as early cuisine questioned

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH, French and American archaeologists have disagreed about the possibility of cannibalism among the first farmers in the south of France. Oddly enough, it is the British side which denies the likelihood of anthropophagy, and the French one which urges such a form of early cuisine.

The dispute arose when the cave of Fontbrégou was excavated: dating to the fifth and fourth millennia BC, the site was used as a temporary camp by small groups of hunters who also kept herds of sheep in pens inside the cave.

According to Paola Villa, of the University of Colorado, and Jean Courtin, of Marcellines, butchering was done there also, and bones were discarded in small pits.

Sixteen such clusters have been excavated, each containing either the remains of one domestic sheep, or of several wild animals or several humans. The human bones exhibit the same cut marks as the animal remains, and these resemble the traces of ethnographically observed butchering techniques. All of the longbones were broken to extract the marrow.

Dr Paul Bahn, a British freelance archaeologist, disagrees, citing Australian Aboriginal mortuary rituals that alleged cannibalism among the first farmers in the south of France. He notes that the Fontbrégou human remains were not mixed with the animal remains but treated separately, and that the brevity of the episode indicates "a mortuary ritual rather than a sudden and short-lived craving for human flesh."

"There is virtually no solid, reliable evidence from any period for human cannibalism," he says. "Although Fontbrégou is the best-documented case yet published for the existence of prehistoric cannibalism, its separate treatment of human remains and the Australian ethnography weaken that case considerably."

Villa and Courtin riposte that it then logically follows that the people at Fontbrégou "butchered, but did not eat, food animals, and gave secondary burial to boars, deer, sheep, badgers and marten. The burial hypothesis is implausible: cannibalism is the only satisfactory explanation."

Source: *Nature* 351: 613-4.

OBITUARIES

NORMAN BARRYMAINE, journalist, diplomat, double-agent and detainee, died in Helston, Cornwall, yesterday aged 91. He was born on July 25, 1900.

ACCORDING to his own account it was while lunching at the Trocadero off Piccadilly Circus in 1954 and later over a discreet meal in Dean Street, Soho, that Norman Barrymaine was recruited by a Soviet agent. He had recently left his diplomatic post at the Foreign Office and allowed himself to become involved, he said later in his book on the episode, with the purpose of discovering - in the wake of the Burgess and Maclean affair - how the Soviet Union's espionage operations in Britain worked. Fourteen years later, at the age of 69, there was another dramatic episode in his life when he spent 19 months in solitary confinement in a Chinese prison cell at the height of the Cultural Revolution. This time he was told, an hour before his release, that he had been found guilty (without trial) of spying. Earlier in his colourful career Barrymaine had been a wartime squadron leader, had helped Group Captain Peter Townsend write his autobiography following his romance with Princess Margaret, had been diplomatic correspondent of the *Evening Standard* and one of the first freelance foreign correspondents covering the Vietnam war to visit North Vietnam during American bombing raids. Later he had his own current affairs programme on Hong Kong television and was publisher and general manager of the *China Mail*.

Norman Barrymaine was dapper in appearance with a quiet, unemotional manner which gave little indication of his physical and mental toughness. Even before his incarceration in a Chinese prison cell he had undergone three operations for brain tumour and the successful removal of ten inches of his colon for cancer.

There was little to corroborate his account of his Soviet spying activities but when it was published it was



referred to Scotland Yard and the Director of Public Prosecutions. Barrymaine, however, had already made clear that he had received no payment from the Soviet side and had not given any information that would compromise his loyalty to Britain.

The son of a tea-blender, he joined the City office of Guthrie's, a Far East trading house, as an office boy in 1914 and later said he was negotiating the settlement of large shipping insurance claims before he was 16. He was posted to Singapore and from there

moved to the Philippines where he learned the rudiments of journalism. After a spell as a boxing correspondent in Manila he moved in 1924 to work in newspapers in Shanghai. He returned to England in 1927 and after working on provincial papers he joined Lord Beaverbrook's *Express* group as a reporter in the parliamentary lobby.

Barrymaine was with Fighter Command in the second world war and it was typical of his style to have claimed to have been the first to have

added up the figures of losses on both sides that showed that the Battle of Britain had been won. He returned to Beaverbrook newspapers after the war before joining the Foreign Office in 1949, at the invitation, he said, of Ernest Bevin who was then foreign secretary. Recounting in 1961 the tale of his recruitment by Moscow, Barrymaine said he was approached at the Trocadero by a man he came to know as George who was regarded by the Foreign Office as a "contact man" for the Soviet embassy whose task was to soften up possible candidates for the Russian intelligence service.

He said he subsequently made several journeys abroad during which he was in contact with Communist agents in the countries he visited including one secret visit to Moscow to confer with Soviet officials. Justifying his active involvement in the world of espionage Barrymaine said his work at the Foreign Office had involved information and research and although it had been secret it had not entailed him having access to top secret papers on British or Western policy so he had no secrets to impart.

Nevertheless he was to suffer the repercussions of this adventure when he went to China to cover the Cultural Revolution and was thrown into a prison cell. Unlike Anthony Grey, a Reuters correspondent who was detained by the Chinese in his own home in Peking during the same period, Barrymaine's plight attracted little public outcry and there were clearly some who believed that he had once again dabbled in espionage. He was interrogated for hours daily for almost seven months and signed the transcript of his "confession." "Who would not under the same conditions?" he said afterwards.

Barrymaine wrote a second book, *The Time Bomb*, detailing his Chinese experiences but never completed his autobiography. His friends believed he felt by doing so he would have been acknowledging that his career was over and that he could never bring himself to do. He is survived by his wife and daughter.

DAVID PRING



David Andrew Michael Pring, CB, MC, former Clerk of Committees, House of Commons, died on August 15 aged 68. He was born on December 6, 1922.

FOR 40 years David Pring served the Clerk's department of the House of Commons. His major contribution to its work lay in developing Commons committees into a force to make government departments and other public bodies seriously accountable for their actions. In addition, he read, wrote and lectured extensively about parliaments at home and abroad and acquired a deep knowledge of how other parliaments worked.

From King's School, Rochester, Pring went to Magdalene College, Cambridge, where he read engineering for one year of the tripos and English for two. In the second world war he was commissioned into the Royal Engineers, took part with the 78th Division in the landings in North Africa and later in the Tunisian, Sicilian and Italian campaigns. He won the Military Cross in Tunisia in 1943. His war service ended in occupied Austria.

Pring's close association with committees began soon after he joined the Commons' staff in 1948. His first major

foray into this field was with the newly appointed Select Committee on Nationalised Industries which chaired a new course for Commons' committees. Hitherto successive governments had sought to confine much committee scrutiny to matters of administration, and deliberately excluded government policies underlying that administration. Policy - in the received wisdom - was a matter for the House itself to debate; committees should be concerned only with the effects of policy.

After a false start in 1955 with terms of reference forbidding inquiry into both the day-to-day activities of nationalised industries and ministerial activities in regard to them, a new committee was set up in 1956 to consider "the reports and accounts of the nationalised industries" - simply that, with no restrictions. This was the committee which Pring served for five years, working closely throughout with its chairman, Sir Toby Low (later Lord Aldington). The committee's reports made during the Low-Pring quincentenary came to be regarded as models of how ministers and industries should be made accountable to Parliament.

Pring's unrivalled experience of Commons' committees led to his appointment in 1976 to the clerkship of committees, with its oversight of all Commons' select committees. He held the post for 12 years, during which he was closely involved with the setting up in 1979, and the working in the 1980s, of the new committees to examine the expenditure, administration and policy of the principal government departments.

Pring gave written and oral evidence to the Procedure Committee of 1977-78 which recommended this more systematic scrutiny of government departments by select committees. He struck the key



notes, one of them was that committees should be small, as an incentive towards shorter, sharper and more readable reports.

In 1975 Pring was appointed the first Registrar of Members' Interests, after the Commons had laid down nine categories of financial interests to be declared in a new and compulsory register. His role was to devise a questionnaire which would extract the necessary information from each member, and then discuss individually with members seeking advice how best they should declare their positions to comply with the House's resolution. Some 200 did so personally, and many more in writing. Later a select committee on members' interests was appointed to take many of the decisions, and based itself largely on the groundwork laid by Pring.

Much of Pring's expertise was fed by knowledge acquired in writing and lecturing about parliaments at home and abroad. His first book, a highly readable thriller entitled *The Apostles of Violence*, published in 1957 under the pseudonym Douglas Perring, had nothing to do with the House of Commons. But then there were two children's books on Parliament, and a pseudonymous Penguin Special

entitled *What's Wrong With Parliament* (1964), which Pring co-authored as a moderate and measured contribution to the current debate on the effectiveness of the House of Commons, with stress laid on practical and reasonable reforms which the House would be likely, under sustained pressure, to accept; effect was given to most of them over the next 15 years. In 1972 *Parliament and Congress*, co-authored with a colleague, illuminated the working methods of the two legislatures, drawing out their advantages and disadvantages.

He served on the council of the Hansard Society, and for 20 years wrote the opening article on parliamentary developments for the society's quarterly journal *Parliamentary Affairs*. As a lecturer on Parliament his talents were much in demand by Commonwealth parliaments, and his ability to present expert knowledge with wit, a light touch and a lack of solemnity appealed especially to the young; in 1965 around the 700th anniversary of the Simon de Montfort Parliament he lectured at more than 100 schools.

He leaves his wife, Sue, his son, Hugo, and daughter, Annabel.

RALPH ZWICKER

Ralph W. Zwicker, a retired US Army major-general who played an important role in the downfall of Senator Joseph McCarthy in 1954, died at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, on August 10 aged 83. He was born in 1903.

IF IT had not been for the communist witch-hunting activities of Senator McCarthy, few people outside the United States military would ever have heard of Ralph Zwicker. Until their paths crossed he had led a distinguished but thoroughly conventional career.

As a combat veteran during the second world war, Zwicker had won the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star, and been awarded the British DSO. And then, as he neared retirement, he settled down as commanding officer of Camp Kilmer in New Jersey.

One of the officers under Zwicker's command was an Army dentist, Captain Irving M. Peress, who had come to Senator McCarthy's attention by writing "Fifth Amendment" on a form that asked him to declare his past associations. Peress was summoned before the Un-American Activities Committee, and again took the Fifth.

McCarthy, who in early 1954 was alleging communist infiltration of the army, was furious. He wrote to Robert Stephens, Secretary of the Army, demanding that Peress be court-martialled - only to discover that his prey had been snatched from his grasp by being given an honourable discharge by his commanding officer. To make matters worse, Peress had at the same time been promoted from captain to major.

This seemed to confirm McCarthy's worst suspicions: that senior officers were protecting their communist underlings. Zwicker, then a brigadier-general, was summoned forthwith to appear before the committee. He refused to answer questions on the grounds that he was forbidden to do so by presidential order.

McCarthy badgered Zwicker mercilessly, accusing him of perjury and denouncing him as "unfit to wear his uniform". But for once he had gone too far. The army sprang to Zwicker's defence, ordered him not to return to the committee, and provoked censure hearings in the senate which finally broke McCarthy's thrall in December 1954.

Oddly enough, Zwicker had not been opposed to the anti-communist crusade before becoming personally involved. "I was not unsympathetic with the senator," he told an interviewer in 1969. "But then I was rapidly disillusioned. He was an opportunist who happened to stumble on to an idea. He climbed a political horse and rode it to death, his own included."

The episode had a profound effect on Zwicker's life, health and army career. He retired in 1960 to become a military analyst with a defence firm, and spent the last two years before his death in a nursing home.

Zwicker's wife, Dorothy, died in 1985. He is survived by two sons and one daughter.

Church services tomorrow

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

BATHURST CATHEDRAL, 8.30. Rev. J. H. G. Jones, Rector. **ST ANDREW'S, 8.30.** Rev. J. H. G. Jones, Rector. **ST JOHN'S, 8.30.** Rev. J. H. G. Jones, Rector. **ST PETER'S, 8.30.** Rev. J. H. G. Jones, Rector. **ST MARK'S, 8.30.** Rev. J. H. G. Jones, Rector. **ST PAUL'S, 8.30.** Rev. J. H. G. Jones, Rector. **ST GEORGE'S, 8.30.** Rev. J. H. G. Jones, Rector. **ST MICHAEL'S, 8.30.** Rev. J. H. G. Jones, Rector. **ST NICHOLAS, 8.30.** Rev. J. H. G. Jones, Rector. **ST VINCENT, 8.30.** Rev. J. H. G. Jones, Rector. **ST EDWARD, 8.30.** Rev. J. H. G. Jones, Rector. **ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, 8.30.** Rev. J. H. G. Jones, Rector. **ST MARY, 8.30.** Rev. J. H. G. Jones, Rector. **ST PETER'S, 8.30.** Rev. J. H. G. Jones, Rector. **ST MARK'S, 8.30.** Rev. J. H. G. Jones, Rector. **ST PAUL'S, 8.30.** Rev. J. H. G. Jones, Rector. **ST GEORGE'S, 8.30.** Rev. J. H. G. Jones, Rector. **ST MICHAEL'S, 8.30.** Rev. J. H. G. Jones, Rector. **ST NICHOLAS, 8.30.** Rev. J. H. G. 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Rural idyll: Helen Allingham's Hill Farm, Symondsbury, Dorset

Coming up roses in the sale room

By JOHN SHAW

HELEN Allingham's world of rustic country cottages, gardens ablaze with roses and hollyhocks, will be revived next month through 55 pictures expected to make up to £700,000 at Christie's in London.

They were collected by Sir Owen Aisher, a founder of Marley Hill, now Marley Place, and are undoubtedly the finest group of watercolours to come on the market, said Andrew Clayton-Payne, one of the auctioneer's picture specialists.

Many of them show large expanses of tiled roof, a collecting idiosyncrasy of Sir Owen's who like to see the pleasing motif effect of weathered old tiles in a natural setting. Only seven or eight of the pictures show that.

It is often claimed that Helen Allingham (1848-1926) offered an idealised picture of Victorian country life, but this is to misread her interest in old cottages which often sprang from a desire to record them before many were either demolished or restored unsympathetically.

She and her husband, the poet William Allingham (1824-1889), had a wide artistic acquaintance and one of his interests was the newly formed Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings.

They were neighbours of Thomas Carlyle in Chelsea and after his death in 1881 the Allinghams moved to the hamlet of Sandhills, near Isleworth, Surrey. The move transformed her art from theatre sketches for magazines to rural scenes and she quickly became the queen of the Surrey cottage.

William Allingham's poor health forced her return to London and after his death she had to bring up three children on little money. She painted in Finsbury, Amersham and Kent, and during the winter spent time with the Tennysons on the Isle of Wight.

Helen Allingham, painted to support her family

researched in detail. A large number have been identified and, perhaps to her efforts, still exist. The sale is on September 19.

The call of the sea exerted its attraction at Bonham in Knightsbridge where a 430-lot sale of marine pictures made £268,000 with only 19 per cent unsold.

The top lot was William Adolphus Knell (1805-1875) of sailing ships off Madeira, shown at the Royal Academy in 1866, which made £11,000 (estimate £7,000-£9,000).

Diary, page 8
Collecting, page 15

He who rules people to justice, who rules in the fear of God, is like the light of morning at sunrise, a morning that is cloudless after rain and makes the grass from the roots of the grass.

2 Samuel 23:3-4

BIRTHS

BENTALL - On August 14th 1991, to Katie (née Wooda) and Tim, a son, George Frederick Charles, a brother for Harriet and Sophie.

BRETHTON - On August 12th 1991, to Caroline and Colin, a daughter, Amanda Frances, a sister for Richard.

CHESLEY-HARRIS - On Sunday July 21st, at Poole Hospital, to Jill (née Spiller) and a daughter, Charlotte. Thanks to all staff.

MORLEY - On August 15th 1991, to Caroline (née Dickson) and a daughter, Charlotte. Thanks to all staff.

INMAN - On August 15th 1991, to Royal Surrey County Hospital, to Michelle (née Wilson) and a daughter, Sophie. Thanks to all staff.

LEWIS - On August 15th 1991, to the Port of Harlow, to Katherine (née Baines) and a son, James David.

MYNNE - On August 14th 1991, at the Royal Free Hospital, to a son, Gregory, to a son, Gregory, to a son, Gregory.

MORRIS - On August 9th, to Caroline (née Baines) and a daughter, Sophie. Thanks to all staff.

OLIVER - On August 16th, to Rachel (née Wilson) and a daughter, Sophie. Thanks to all staff.

OSZGERSKI - On August 15th, to a son, Gregory, to a son, Gregory, to a son, Gregory.

SHARP - On August 15th, to a son, Gregory, to a son, Gregory, to a son, Gregory.

WALKER - On August 16th, to a son, Gregory, to a son, Gregory, to a son, Gregory.

WELSH - On August 16th, to a son, Gregory, to a son, Gregory, to a son, Gregory.

ALLARDICE - On August 15th, to a son, Gregory, to a son, Gregory, to a son, Gregory.

BAUGHMAN - On August 15th, to a son, Gregory, to a son, Gregory, to a son, Gregory.

DUDLEY - On August 15th, to a son, Gregory, to a son, Gregory, to a son, Gregory.

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DEATHS

DALEJISH - On Thursday August 15th 1991, peacefully at home after a long illness, Mrs. Mary Jane Dalejish, nee Jones, aged 84, of 10, Woodcroft Road, Pinner, Middlesex, UK. Buried at Pinner Crematorium.

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TOR



Racing for the post: the field at Insh completing the six (or is it six-and-a-half?) furlong makeshift course that attracts punters and bookies from hundreds of miles around

Flapping over the Borders

The Jockey Club rules probably have something to say about dogs running in the 3.30 at Epsom. But nobody seemed particularly concerned when a liver-coloured greyhound joined the 7.20 at Insh, and indeed at one point looked a fair bet for a place.

One thousand punters, 30 racehorses, a dozen jockeys and eight bookies gathered at Murral Farm, high above the small Aberdeen-shire village, for the seventeenth Insh Horse Races last weekend. These are the most northerly meetings in the British Isles, or the most northerly anyone knows about.

"This," cried Walter Moir, a painter and decorator and a co-founder of the meeting, "is our Royal Ascot, our Goodwood, the Cheltenham Gold Cup of Scottish flapping." And he proudly waved his plastic beaker of vodka and Coke over the six, or possibly six-and-a-half, furlong course (marked out with white ribbon and fence posts. Two weeks earlier it had produced a fine crop of late silage for farmer George Stuart).

Nobody knows where the word flapping comes from, not even its participants. The *Oxford English Dictionary* traces its first known usage to *Queen's Magazine* in 1911. Other than that, all agree flapping is racing under any rules other than those of the Jockey Club. Insh rules are normal enough: no pull-

Insh is the Royal Ascot, the Goodwood of Britain's most northerly racecourse. Not select, but full of action. Alastair Robertson reports

ing (deliberately losing), no excessive use of the whip and "don't ride the opposition into the rails". Flapping is largely confined to the Celtic fringes of the British Isles. In Ireland it may be a bigger industry than racing "under rules". In the Borders it is an obsession — 20 meetings a year between Hawick, Laingholm, Bogside and Irvine, and frequently as many as 20 runners in a race. At Insh five horses is the norm, each race worth £375. For the Borders, a rumbustious crew of hard-drinking owners and jockeys with natty a trilby hat nor camel-hair coat between them, Insh is the only place to be on the second weekend in August.

"This is the flappers' annual pilgrimage: racing for the working man. We've come 360 miles for this. Wouldn't miss it," declared Ray Willey, a coalman from Canonbie and part-owner with Roy Minty, a local hotelier, of Innoutapanna, the seven-year-old beaten into fourth place by the greyhound on Friday night. "Well, the dog didn't help, but the going was a bit hard for him," said Mr Willey with a nod and a wink.

How much nodding and wink-

ing goes on at Insh is anyone's guess. That the four winning horses on Friday night all won their races the next day suggested that nothing outrageous was afoot — or at least nothing to produce a repeat of several years ago when an 8-1 outsider romped home seven lengths clear of the two joint

'We earned a wage today, grinned the bookie said to have painlessly extracted £200 from a local dentist

favourites in a three-horse race. On that occasion the jockey of a much fancied local horse was pursued by a furious crowd of suspicious punters amid suggestions that things might have gone better had he not spent the entire night and following morning in the bar of the Commercial hotel.

Things have changed. "I don't touch drink till the meeting's over, then I get a good kick at The Bull," said Ian Crozier, the defending champion jockey of the Border circuit whose nickname, "Crow",

is tattooed on one forearm and the legend "Horses my ruin" on the other. "Na, nothing funny here," said Crow, who claimed to have ridden, in his youth, for the big names in racing. That he no longer does so appeared to have less to do with his jockeying skills, he hinted mysteriously, as with a tale worthy of Dick Francis, involving two identical horses, £40,000 and someone making a dash for the Channel ferry to Ostend.

With the exception of Crow, all the jockeys were amateurs, riding for a chance of £40 a win, although it was said a good rider could take home £300 for a weekend's work. "Just because we don't do it for a living doesn't mean we don't take it seriously. We take it as seriously as Henry Cecil," said David Boyd, of Irvine, referring to the champion trainer from nearby Duns. "Love it, love it. Can't keep away," declared Trapper, up from the Borders and tacking for bookie Dottie Kemp, from Aberdeen. "We've earned a wage today," grinned Mr Kemp, who was said to have painlessly extracted £200 in one bet from a local dentist. Trapper, too, had

earned a wage. As the meeting waited for the official result of a dead heat — no cameras for photo finishes at Insh — Trapper had piled in on the strength of information from his "spotter" at the winning post. "See that? Fifty quid. Love it, love it."

On Friday night, the only real beating the bookies took was with Cracker, part-owned by Ian Ledingham, a machine minder at Tait's Inverurie paper mills. First time out it had come in at 7-1. "The feeling of a winner... you just don't know until you've had one," sighed Mr Ledingham, easing a roll of banknotes as thick as a felloe from a trousers pocket.

Like all flapper owners he is fiercely defensive of the so-called unofficial side of racing. "We see our horses every day; more than some owners who only see them in the paddock at Cheltenham."

A good flapping horse can cost up to 2,000 guineas and is usually either a late developer which trainers have given up on, or one an owner can no longer afford.

"People who think it's smart to own a horse," Mr Willey sniffed. Down in the Station Hotel, Footloose, the Northern Irish band booked for the race dance, was warming up. A head came round the bar-room door. "Any-one here seen a greyhound?"

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Farmer's diary: Paul Heiney

Tripped up by a grim reaper

AS I strolled innocently into the kitchen the other day, I felt the same horror that must have gripped the sailor in *Treasure Island* when he opened the envelope to discover the black spot. Lying on the table, giving no hint of its latent menace, was a gently curving six-inch piece of wire. I hoped it might be the broken end of a wire coat-hanger, but when I saw a label hanging from it my fears were confirmed. I read the shakily written words out loud so that there should be no doubt. It said: "Binder Trip Spring from Gordon."

The wire was a vital component in our binder we shall use to harvest our oats and barley. I have been putting off the day when I would have to face this tangled mass of coils, belts, chains, canvas and flailing lengths of wood. I have been pretending that some-

thing to life? The phone rang. My prayers were answered. It was Farmer Jones from up the hill, inviting me to view his collection of farming antiques.

I spent a happy evening in his barn enjoying old forks and shovels, gas masks and bits of beloved machines long since departed. But when he showed me his father's old car, I knew that Farmer Jones was the man who could wave a recuperative wand over my binder.

The car was a 1932 Austin 10 and the remarkable thing was that it had been modified for the old man, who stood less than 5ft tall. The pedals were extended and, presumably, there had once been a cushion on the driving seat. However, the old boy still had problems seeing over the bonnet and kept hitting things with the front



bumper. To prevent further collision, he took the bumpers off. If you have no bumpers, he assumed, you can't bump into anything. Simple. The son of such a man, I guessed, must have inherited a streak of ruthless logic, and if anyone needed a literal mind untroubled by tangential thought, it was the hero who was going to fix my binder. My invitation was accepted and Farmer Jones and his friend, Frank, arrived next morning.

We dragged the tangled machine out to face the field of golden corn. When working properly, it cuts the corn and, by passing it over a series of conveyor belts, gathers it in a bundle. It puts a string round it, ties a knot in it and spits it on to the ground. That is called a sheaf and the mere sight of one can bring a tear to the eye of those who remember old harvests and festivals. But years, I suspect, may be shed well before any of our corn is gathered. As I write, the machine has spat its first sheaf in 40 years and I must surely inform you that there is no string round it. A sheaf without a string is like a sausage without a skin — immangeable. Farmer Jones and Frank are standing like two shocked men at the scene of a nasty accident, trying to work out why.

Much mechanical repairmen him ahead before all is safely gathered in.

Feather report

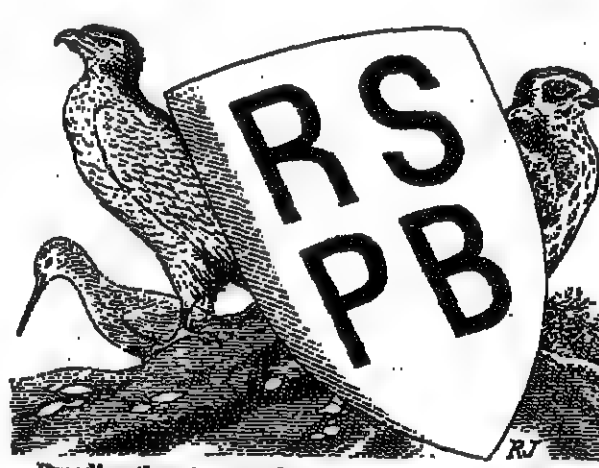
Radicals in tweed jackets

OUTING has been in the news, and I think it is about time this column got into the act. This week I propose to set about the outing of the RSPB. The organisation is not what it seems: not a gathering of retired colonels and doty old women operated by lick-spittle, government-friendly, status-quo-supporting good eggs in tweed jackets. This is a hard-line conservation organisation.

The latest issue of the RSPB's magazine, *Birds*, has the traditional advertisements for things such as porcelain woodpeckers and terracotta bird-feeders and bronze avocets, just as you would expect. But the editorial content is a piece of unflinching anti-government thunder: "Government ministers have put the wildlife sites in Scotland at risk. After promising unwavering commitment to their protection, they have caved into the interests of a minority of landowners."

This is tough stuff, and it comes from the RSPB chief executive, Barbara Young. What next? Will we get the retired colonels and the tweed women of the RSPB heard railing themselves to raw sewage outlets and nuclear power stations, like Greenpeace activists? Has the society been taken over by campaigners from the Armageddon organisations?

Not exactly. The RSPB is in more or less the same place it has always been: defending birds and their habitats, as its charter says it must. The society had not budged: it is



Breeding threat: greenshank, golden eagle and merlin

the forces against conservation that have moved.

The pace of destruction has increased, and with each increase the RSPB's duty to fight it becomes more important. By simply sticking to its guns, the society has had to become increasingly radical.

This particular issue concerns the Cairngorms and the Flow Country in Scotland, habitat for breeding greenshank, dotterel and snow bunting, and for golden eagle, hen harrier and merlin. These birds are threatened by as neat a piece of bureaucratic juggling as you could wish to see. New procedures mean that more than 150 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in Scotland can now be challenged by a few wealthy landowners.

This goes back to the government's great anti-conservation coup of a couple of years back, under which the Nature

Conservancy Council (NCC) was disbanded and replaced by regional organisations for England, Scotland and Wales, breeding bureaucracy, wasting resources, and generally being a thoroughly effective piece of divide-and-rule legislation.

In the face of much criticism, from the RSPB and elsewhere, a special co-ordinating body was established, and ministers said again and again that the commitment to the protection of the SSSIs would be unwavering. The SSSI system is the legal backbone of conservation efforts in this country. But in Scotland it is being undermined, says Ms Young. A new statutory committee is being set up, and it will be able to review the decisions of the Scottish Natural Heritage Agency (formerly NCC Scotland). In other words, decisions on SSSIs can be

summarily overturned, even retrospectively. This opens the way to conservation disaster.

"It is not hard to conclude that in Scotland a small number of landowners now direct the government's conservation policy," Ms Young writes. "The RSPB has a professional approach. Where government is concerned, our dealings are based on trust, which has to be worked at. When ministers announce a decision we agree with, we praise them. When they choose a counter course, we comment accordingly."

"Dozens of sites are now open to review, including those we battled long to protect... Once the government could claim the high moral ground... No longer can it do this. Ministers have abandoned all their pledges, broken the trust established with the RSPB and weakly capitulated to one interest group. Are conservation sites really safe in their hands?"

The RSPB has always been a frightfully respectable organisation. The more it stands firm against the forces of anti-conservation, the more respect it deserves.

SIMON BARNES

What's about: *Birds* — Arctic skuas heading south along coast; watch for gulls and terns pursued by fierce, faster bird. Twitwits — booted eagle (first for Britain) seen between Farne and Broadstairs, Kent. First greenshank warbler of the season at Wadhurst, Norfolk. Details from *Birdline* 0898 700222.

Country events

THIS WEEKEND

Alcester fair: The Warwickshire and West Midlands Game Fair features falconry, crafts, side-saddle riding, helicopter rides, working gun dogs, sporting art and racing husky exhibitions. On Sunday only, minik hound, terrier, lurcher and farrier shows. *Upper Hamble Country Park, Bursledon, Hampshire. Tonight, meet Barnfield Kestrel Gyn. Booking essential: 0489 787053.*

Gillingham rallies: Vintage machinery weekend with tractors, stationary engines, cars, lorries and trade stands at the Rare Breeders Farm. Also many animals, milking, lamb-feeding.

parachuting teddy bears, and other oddities, stalls, and children's entertainment. *Hengistbury Head, Bournemouth, Dorset. Tomorrow, 10am-5pm. Free. Further information: 0202 789789.*

Humble excursions: Guided evening boat trip up the river Hamble, with supper at Manor Farm on your return.

Upper Hamble Country Park, Bursledon, Hampshire. Tonight, meet Barnfield Kestrel Gyn. Booking essential: 0489 787053.

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children's play area. *Dorset Rare Breeds Centre and Farm Museum, Shaftesbury Road, Gillingham, Dorset (0747 822169). Today, tomorrow, 10am-6pm. £2, children £1.50.*

Idle Hill country fair: Crafts, men demonstrate skills and sell their wares. Also bands, country dancers, workshops, a maze, painting for children.

Enniscorthy, Kent. Today, tomorrow, 11am-5.30pm. £2.50, children 50p. Further information: 0892 890651.

Woburn fly-in: The De Havilland Moth Club celebrates the Tiger Moth's sixtieth anniversary. Up to 70 aircraft arrive this morning. Displays

and demonstrations throughout the weekend. *Woburn Abbey, Woburn, Bedfordshire (0525 290646). Today, tomorrow from 9am. £5 per car.*

NEXT WEEK

Desford: Free entry for children under 16 to the museum's collection of 120 aircraft, which includes a Coterbe. Talks, an adapted Land Rover for children to drive, RAF, navy and army exhibitions, quizzes, pleasure flights.

Imperial War Museum, Duxford airfield, Cambridge (0223 833633). Mon from 10am. £4.60.

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JUDY FROSHAUG

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The shaming of Shaw

The house in which George Bernard Shaw was born, and where he lived in 'shabby, genteel poverty', is virtually a ruin. But the fight is on to save it. Edward Gorman reports

From the outside, No 33 Sygne Street, part of an elegant row of Victorian terrace houses in south central Dublin, appears attractive and well kept. The circular plaque on the red brick wall reminds passers-by that it was once the home of one of the greatest literary figures ever to have emerged from Ireland.

The plaque, which was put up by a Dublin man at a cost to himself and his friends of £38 in the early 1940s, reads: "Bernard Shaw. Author of many plays was born in this house 26 July 1856."

Inside, behind the deceptively orderly exterior, Shaw's home for the first ten years of a life which spanned nearly a century, is virtually in ruins. Nora Lever, a retired professor of drama who, as the chairwoman of the Shaw Birthplace Museum Trust, is leading the fight to save the house, welcomes visitors with the solemn invitation: "Come in, and see the devastation."

The house, which has changed hands scores of times since the Shaws left in 1866, has been allowed to run into a state of serious disrepair and is a depressing sight. There is rot in the timbers, the plaster is crumbling from the walls, there are holes in the ceilings and damp infests every corner. The bedroom where Lucinda Elizabeth Carr Shaw gave birth to George Bernard, is disfigured by cheap carpeting, layers of plastic wallpaper and inappropriate paint.

The writer's childhood bedroom below, which looks out to the garden, is in a similar state, with holes in the floor and cracks in the ceiling. The repair bill alone is estimated at

about £80,000. The striking thing about the place is that despite its condition one quickly comes to feel — partly through the enthusiasm of Ms Lever — a sense of its history, which inspires images of the young Shaw, perhaps playing in the back garden with his sisters Lucy and Frances, or receiving tuition from his governess in the parlour.

Ms Lever and her friend and co-campaigner, Frances McCarthy, who lives in the house next door, are passionate about Shaw and heartbroken that his home, and his legacy, have been so shabbily treated. Mrs McCarthy, whose lifelong interest in Shaw was inherited from her father, believes the state of the house and the begrudging response from the government and arts bodies to her pleas for funding, are symptomatic of their approach to Dublin's literary and architectural heritage.

"This to me is a tragedy," she says. "We've lost so many treasures in Dublin through stupidity, ignorance and apathy. We must save this house — the birthplace of one of the greatest literary figures in the world."

Shaw was not fond of his boyhood home, then No. 3 Sygne Street, and described his life there as "shabby, genteel poverty". The house then looked out on to open



Desolate garden where Shaw played

fields, near what is now the heart of Dublin.

In a short essay entitled "Am I An Educated Person?", published three years before his death in 1950, Shaw wrote of Sygne Street: "Great as is my debt to famous books, great pictures and noble music for my education I should be even more ignorant than I am but for my removal at the age of ten from the street in which I was born, half of it faced with a very unpicturesque field which was soon obscured by a hoarding plastered with advertisements..." Later he

wrote of his ecstatic happiness on being told by his mother that the family was to move to the seaside village of Dalkey, where he could enjoy extravagant views over Dublin Bay and Killiney Bay.

But there is evidence that Shaw would nevertheless have delighted in Mrs McCarthy's ambition to turn Sygne Street into a museum and study centre dedicated to his life and work. At the end of his life, he recalled that Torca Cottage in Dalkey, into which the family moved after leaving Sygne Street, "now bears a handsome plaque commemorating my residence there. It was unveiled in January 1948 and gratified me immensely."

Mrs McCarthy wants Sygne Street to be restored as a family home of the period. "I want it to be as though the family had gone out for a stroll and could be back at any moment. I want it to be alive," she says.

The obstacle is money. The trust bought the house two years ago for £111,000, raising about half the money from donors, including the British embassy (which gave £15,000), the Irish Tourist Board and the government. But it has been unable to repay a £54,000 loan taken out from the Allied Irish Bank on the remainder, and has just two weeks to find the money or the

house will be put back on the market. One room, at the front of the house on the ground floor, has been restored to demonstrate what could be possible for the rest of the house.

So far Ms Lever's appeals have had only one response, from the National Gallery of Ireland, which announced on Tuesday that it had made a donation. The amount was not disclosed.

The campaign for the money has been given fresh impetus by the publication in *The Irish Times* last weekend of an open letter to Charles Haughey, the Irish prime minister, from Michael Holroyd, who recently completed a biography of Shaw.

The author warned that the state must step in to save the house if Ireland is to avoid "a national humiliation". Mr Holroyd pointed out to Mr Haughey, whose flexibility is restricted by unexpected government overspending this year, that successive Irish governments have done very little to honour Shaw.

He also said millions of pounds derived from royalties bequeathed to the National Gallery in Dublin have been spent on building and refurbishment projects which, Mr Holroyd maintains, should have been paid for out of central government funds.

Time is running out for the house but its trustees, who believe the British hold Shaw in greater esteem than do his native Irish, remain confident that the money will be found and that their benefactor may come from across the water.



Saving history: Professor Nora Lever, co-trustee of the campaign to save Shaw's birthplace

Events in town

THIS WEEKEND

□ **Glasgow's** 175 pipe bands from Scotland, Ireland, the US, Canada, Australia, and many European countries at the World Pipe Band Championships. Also Highland dancing and displays, a full Highland games, pony club competitions and children's funfair. First competition 9am. Grand March past 3pm. **Bella Houston Park, Glasgow. Today, £2.**

□ **Huddersfield** gala Musical and family entertainment and the finals of the Open Flower, Vegetable and Handicraft Show. Tomorrow afternoon, **Huddersfield, Yorkshire.**

jazz in the park with many local groups and soloists. **Greenhead Park, Huddersfield, Yorkshire.**

Today, tomorrow from 2pm. □ **Richmond** comes alive: International festival of street music with more than 100 musicians, including Afro-Brazilian, Caribbean, UK and local community bands. **Riverside and various venues, Richmond, Surrey.** Today, tomorrow from 2pm. Free. Information: 081-940 9125.

NEXT WEEK

□ **Hendon** highlights: Flight Activities Week: offers entertainment including "flights" in a tethered hot-air balloon, a Royal Artillery display team

jump, children's workshop, kite-flying, rockery, boomerang throwing, model aircraft construction and flight simulations. **Royal Air Force Museum, Grahame Park Way, London NW9 0BT (081-205 2266).**

Now-Aug 23, 10am-5pm. £4.10, children £2.05, family ticket £10.

□ **Weymouth** festivities: Carnival with a procession of about 100 floats from 6pm. Followed by a Red Arrows display team flight, parachute drops, fairground stalls, street entertainment and disco. Fireworks display starts about 9.30pm. **Weymouth, Dorset. Wed.**

JUDY FROSHAUG

Assets: kitchen machines

A cut above the usual

HEAVY-DUTY professional kitchen machines are enjoying a surprise revival. Hard on the heels of the sturdy, shiny Dualit toaster, with its cut-size capacity, have come requests from home-owners for pukka catering equipment such as the American Waring blender, which has a heavy chrome base and chunky glass jug, and sells for about £150 at Divertimenti and Liberty.

Both shops also sell the Waring professional juice extractor, designed in the Fifties, which makes swift work of four pounds of fruit or vegetables all at one go. It costs a hefty £305 at Liberty, although a smaller, portable version is available at £100.

The Kitchen Aid food mixer, also imported from the United States, features a chunky enamel bowl and has long been a favourite among commercial caterers. Now the 50-year-old whizzer is appearing in domestic kitchens, where its old-fashioned qualities of durability and stability are increasingly appreciated, even if the optional attachments for grinding grain, stuffing sausages or opening cans are perhaps under-utilised. Divertimenti sells for £355 (attachments cost extra). It is also stocked at Liberty.

La Gelateria is an automatic sorbet and ice-cream maker, a smaller version of the machines used in Italian restaurants, which creates three litres in a hour. It is made in Italy and costs £252 from the French Kitchen Shop.

Nor is it surprising that heavy-duty professional espresso/cappuccino makers, such as the Pavoni, to order after by home-owners, despite sky-high prices (the Pavoni costs £599). Few domestic versions are able to froth milk sufficiently for an acceptable cappuccino.



Heavy duty: the Kitchen Aid

Tony Reeve, the general manager of Robot Coupe UK, which imports the Waring machines and the Kitchen Aid food mixer, comments: "We've been selling professional equipment to commercial establishments in the UK for about five years, but recently we've noticed that



Sturdy: the Waring blender

these machines are going into a growing number of domestic kitchens. It may be a backlash against cheap and cheerful equipment that doesn't last very long. Despite the price differential, the extra cost of professional equipment doesn't seem to daunt a certain category of customer."

Non-professional food processors designed specifically for domestic kitchens can cost almost as much as their catering counterparts (the top-of-the-range Kenwood FP800 retails at £130, and the Magimix 5000 at £155), but even a basic £30 machine will mix cakes, make pastry and bread dough, blend mayonnaise, and slice, shred and chop vegetables.

Paying top prices for a domestic machine may not purchase convenience, although that will ensure a machine with a larger bowl, more powerful motor (up to 950w for the largest Magimix) and more attachments. Before buying, it is wise to consider how many extras will be used regularly. Some of the pricier models, for example, include a liquidiser attachment. But if you already own a free-standing liquidiser, even a vintage one, it will still blend a finer soup and create frothier milkshakes than an attachment.

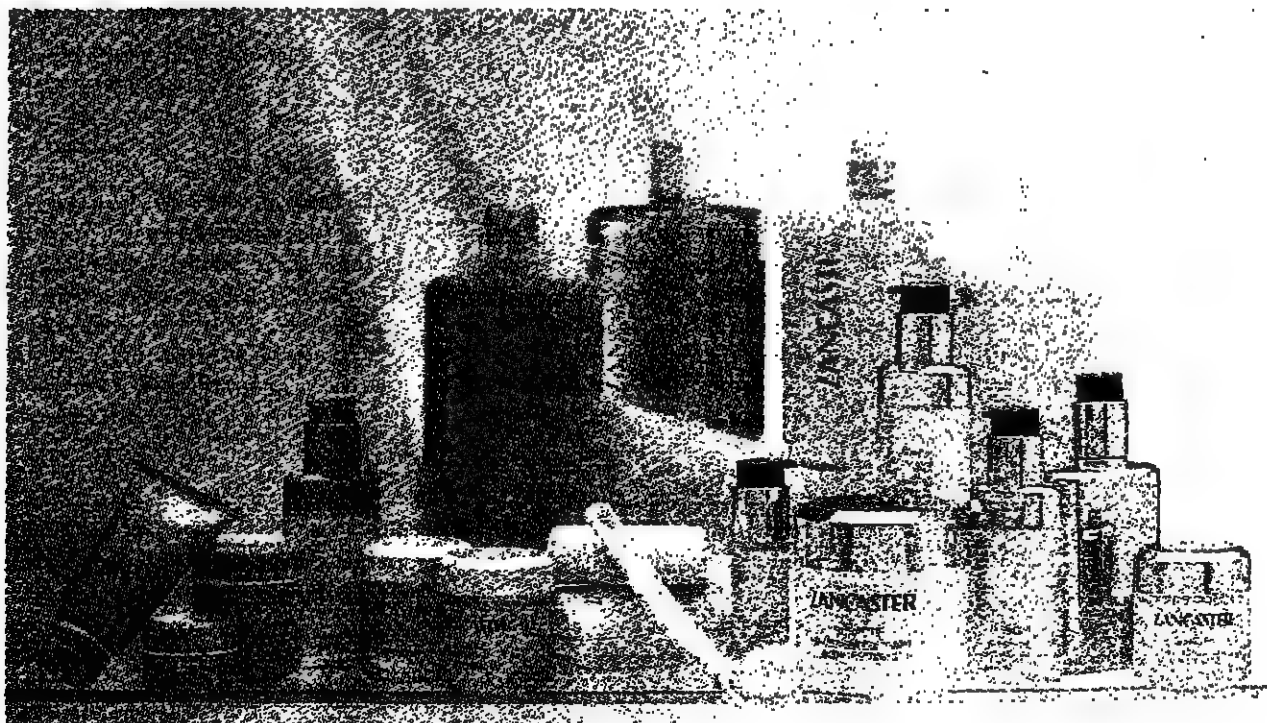
Few domestic food processors can handle very large quantities of cake mix (average maximum capacity is a three-egg mixture) or bread dough, and some fail to come up to scratch when whisking egg whites. Nor are they the best way to make sponge cakes, since a food processor cannot beat in as much air as a conventional hand whisk.

NICOLE SWENGLEY
Authentic, 42 Shelton Street, WC2 (071-240 9845). Divertimenti, 45 Wigmore Street, W1 (071-381 8065). The French Kitchen Shop, 42 Westbourne Grove, W2 (071-221 2112). Liberty, Regent Street, W1 (071-734 1234).

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TELEVISION REVIEW

Rule of thumb: shoot, cut, film

Having rashly agreed to a 26-mile cycle ride last weekend, I discovered something that many people knew already: that a body unaccustomed to energetic activity signals its outrage in unignorable ways. People say I have a sedentary life, but then they don't know how much lying down I do. "What have you done today, darling?" Well, I've been pinning this sofa to the floor pretty strenuously, using the whole length and breadth of my body.

So the bicycle ride came as a shock. The hobbling and moaning were off after a couple of days, but a week later my hands have still not recovered. Struggling to shift gears with my thumbs, straining to brake to a virtual standstill on scary steep downhill slopes, my hands suffered a kind of trauma, and I was left with a strange feebleness in my thumbs. I have spent the week unable to turn keys in locks; and on Wednesday I was obliged to peg out washing with my teeth. Every time the phone rings, I think of the Gary Larson cartoon in which two cows sitting in arm-chairs regard their own ringing phone and say to one another: "There it goes again. And we just sit here without opposable thumbs."

Watching last night's *Survival Special* (Anglia), then, in which some apes in Sierra Leone demonstrated their untaught use of primitive tools, I admit my interest in their manual dexterity was of a personal kind. On the small island of Tiwai, close to the Liberian border, a last surviving rainforest sustains 11 species of primates, without a pair of properly opposable thumbs among the lot of them.

Lynne Truss, atlas in hand, discovers dexterous primates and clumsy reptiles in *Survival Special*

Yet there they were, deftly snatching the adamantine shells and gobbling the nuts, while the poor starving viewer looked in dismay at the litter of peanut packets strewn petulantly on the floor, her thumbs unequal to the challenge of tearing them open.

In common with many nature programmes, this *Survival Special* was an emotional roller-coaster ride. At the same time as celebrating the diversity of wildlife on this island — with fantastic shots, taken 150 feet up, in the canopy of the rain forest — the film was also a distressing "last chance to see". The animals are being hunted to extinction; the habitat is being levelled and torched. Bad men with guns are crossing the border from Liberia to kill people and eat monkey-flesh. According to *Radio Times*, the camera crew was obliged to retreat sharply from the area, leaving the local people to be massacred.

So watching this portrait of life on Tiwai was like looking at a star — an image of something that may already be dead. It showed monkeys peacefully eating fruit or soaring through the treetops, but it also showed their miniature wizened skulls lined up next to a local outdoor barbecue. It showed splen-

did aerial views of the dense rainforest, but also focused on men with chainsaws advancing like robots through the landscape of Sierra Leone.

Man's superior dexterity seemed to have led him to an interesting behaviour pattern: "If it moves, shoot it. If it doesn't move, cut it down. If it is fast disappearing, film it." One's assumption, somehow, is that the tool-wielding apes (if they survive) will follow in man's footsteps, though it is hard to imagine the ultimate madness of them saving down their own trees while making documentaries about it.

All sorts of animals live on Tiwai — otters, civet cats, chameleons. But, aside from the primates, the real stars of the show were the anteaters. There are two virtually identical species of anteater on Tiwai — called pangolins — and they have arrived at a most Cox and Box arrangement, whereby one of them hunts by day and the other by night. One of them eats red ants, and the other eats black ones. In their spare moments, perhaps, they divide boxes of chocolates into milk and plain, while singing the old Cole Porter number: You say "potayto" and I say "potato", you say "tomayto" and I say "tomato".

Somehow one cannot help feeling sorry for anteaters, because — well, obviously, because they eat ants. Ants, for heaven's sake. Watching the daytime pangolin push its nose into a nest, while ants swarmed in angry thousands up its legs and over its armoured body was a very nasty sensation indeed — something like being buried alive, only more itchy. But the



pangolin neither flinched nor scratched. It did not even sneeze. You could imagine the cameraman shouting from his precarious tree-top perch, "You okay?" and the pangolin looking dimly across and saying (with ants swarming around his eyes and mouth), "Sure. Why?"

My only grouse about this film was that, in common with far too many other travel and nature documentaries, it neglected to provide a map. Surely they do not imagine that we are all so familiar with West Africa that we can automatically conjure up details of the southern bits of Sierra Leone without help? "By my reckoning, dear, this island is south of Keneba and north of Sulima." "Oh, I know, the bit where the river widens?" "That's right." "Well, we're really in for a treat, then." Perhaps it is less important to

other people, but I am not happy unless I can somehow get my bearings. The "where" is always as important as the "why" or the "how". In the recent *Travellers' Tales* (Channel 4) in which Michael Wood walked from Athens to Eleusis, I was too embarrassed to admit that I didn't know where Eleusis was, so kept trying to work out which point of the compass he was following, by studying the angle of the sun.

So I cannot help noticing, for example, that Stuart Hall's *Redemption Song* series (BBC 2), while fascinating on the structure of the post-colonial Caribbean, has left me without the faintest notion of where Antigua is. Do they not know that whereas geography is about shape, geography is about maps? Like Alice falling down the

rabbit hole, the viewer is supposed to free-float in a kind of geographical limbo, merely musing "I wonder what latitude or longitude I've got to?"

Of course, the mystification may be intentional. When a friend of mine recently purchased a street-map of Barcelona from a famous map shop in Longacre, she discovered that, because it printed the street names in Spanish rather than Catalan, it was virtually useless. She went back to the shop to tell them, and was rather surprised by their response: "Well, that's the joy of travel, really — not knowing where you are."

Unfortunately, while this same attitude prevails among the programme-makers, the viewer is constantly obliged to look things up in an atlas, turning the pages with her toes if necessary, because her thumbs have packed up.

Yielding songs of grace

PROMS

BBC SSO/Yuasa
Albert Hall/Radio 3

THE nickname "Great C Major" given to Schubert's Symphony No 9 already seems to dictate a certain style of performance. When one adds the sheer scale of the piece — the breadth of conception dwarfs any other of the composer's works in the genre — one seems destined for an interpretation more or less grand and epic, and probably inclining to the monumental and ponderous.

In his performance on Thursday with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, of which he is the principal guest conductor, Takuo Yuasa suggested an alternative approach. Here was a reading that was relatively lightweight and that inclined consistently towards the lyrical. All three of the fast movements were streamlined, with dynamic contrasts minimised and the tension of dramatic conflict yielding to song-like phrasing. Most remarkable of all was the scherzo, which emerged as a fast waltz: not such an eccentric reading when one notices the triplet figures in the melodic lines and the dance-like accompaniments.

If there was a down side to Yuasa's performance it was in the breathlessness it induced: one never had the chance to savour a phrase before being whisked on to the next. And for all the charm and freshness of the reading, one ended up feeling shortchanged, rather as if one had enjoyed a superb hors d'oeuvre and dessert while being denied the main course.

David Owen Norris is probably better known to many people as the presenter of the irreverent Radio 3 programme *The Works* than as a pianist. Shostakovich's First Piano Concerto (otherwise known as the Concerto for Piano, Trumpet and String Orchestra) provided Norris with the perfect opportunity to combine his talents as keyboard executant and wit. The good humour of the concerto is, for once with Shostakovich, unambiguous, and Norris, complemented by the nimble trumpet playing of Nigel Doddie and equally responsive conducting of Yuasa, missed not a single trick.

The BBC Scottish, in excellent form throughout the evening, was earlier put through its paces by Yuasa in a sparkling performance of Berlioz's overture, *Beatrice and Benedict*.

BARRY MILLINGTON



Booming cast in a watery revival: Julia Foster, Rosemary Harris and Leonie Mellinger

Something nasty in the library

THEATRE
Preserving Mr Panmure
Festival, Chichester

WEEDY, henpecked Panmure, chafing beneath the religious regime newly imposed by Mrs Panmure, so far forgets Edwardian convention that he kisses his daughter's young governess on the mouth. Instantly apologetic, he protests that this ghastly assault merely expressed gratitude for the bright idea she gave him for his evening "sermonette", but Miss Josephine has gone rigid with shame, grief and horror.

Reluctant to finger her mistress's husband, she cannot resist letting slip that something nasty happened to her in the library, and soon the women of the house are comically alerted — at least, if the idea of following *The Silver King*, last year's melodrama by Sir Arthur Henry Jones, with a production from the same director (Peter Wood) of a play by his contemporary, Sir Arthur

throws suspicion on the four male guests: a stiff MP, his suspicious secretary, a silly ass, and Mrs Panmure's uncle, cryptically described by my 1911 predecessor as "an old muf". But Pintero, author of this piece, is determined on a policy of having his cake and eating it. Mrs P turns out to be an old softy and nobody needed to have felt any panic at all. End of play.

Something is to be said for the idea of following *The Silver King*, last year's melodrama by Sir Arthur Henry Jones, with a production from the same director (Peter Wood) of a play by his contemporary, Sir Arthur

Wing Pinero. But *Preserving Mr Panmure* is watery stuff. Wood has also twisted and turned the thing like dough, bringing later scenes forward and continuing alterations up to the last minute, if one can judge by the presence in the cast list of a vicar who no longer figures in the play.

A kiss on the mouth may be quite detrimental, and only a modest effort of will is required to imagine oneself back 80 years and feel the crisis from Josephine's point of view. But some coherence of behaviour is then required of the character. Abigail McKern is expected to weep one moment, and at the next dart in and out of the bathroom, mysteriously adjacent to the library, wearing provocative underclothes. Now, virgin, now mixx, her motives become unathomable.

This brings up the matter of Pinero's dialogue. "The affair

shall be fathomed," has a fine roll to it, and a period oddity attaches to the ingenu's remark, "I nauseate womenmen," as if they all turn away in repugnance at her approach. But much of the dialogue is neither witty nor comically in character. And Panmure's final exposure, presumably brought about by the prying footman seen silhouetted behind every glass door, is so mishandled that what happens is incomprehensible.

Alec McCowen is wasted on the empty character of Panmure; Julia Foster flusters pleasantly as his wife, Rosemary Harris, a dowager in her bedroom, and Benjamin Whitrow, with Neil Dagnall skrimishing in the library, take the best of the chances going. The cast's tendency to boom suggests their uncertainty in the play's worth.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Mime is the word, or is it?

MIME is the performance art that dare not speak its name. Except that it does, intermittently. Those precious images of Marcel Marceau imitating lampposts are a thing of the past. Today so-called mime artists have discovered the spoken word. They offer revue sketches, monologues and voluble reminiscences. The label "mime" is, one suspects, a safety net for material too flimsy to stand up in a conventional theatrical format.

Peta Lily is a respected mime artist. A shrewd looking, perky Australian blonde, she now presents a triple bill of items from her repertoire, all of which include speech. What her mimetic gifts may be is unclear, but as a judge of words she should stick to gestures.

She begins with a chatty

THEATRE
Hiroshima Mon Amour
Lyric, Hammersmith

presentation of slides. In "Dogs I Have Been" she shows us photos of fox terriers, a Chihuahua, a dachshund and her boyfriend, Graham. The style founders into pseudo-poetry as she recalls how "my flesh cracked into whip-sharp welts at his burning yelps" (referring to a dog, not Graham). The 15-minute picture show is interesting chiefly for her pronunciation of that useful piece of seating as a "pouffey". She changes her dog-patterned skirt (painted by Roddy Maud-Roxby, who as a

member of the original cast of *One Way Pendulum* could tell her a thing or two about surreal humour) for a black exercise outfit and a largely baffling routine with a broom to signify housework. She marches, bends and presents arms at odd angles before speech comes to the rescue. Representational mime is one thing; when the subject is not only invisible but stylised, bewildering sets in.

The third item is the longest. The actress appears as a grotesque caricature of Edith Piaf, make-up slapped on thickly, even the cleavage pencilled in. This is Muriel, an Australian performer on a world tour and her last legs, devoted to the memory of "the little sparrow". Mouth gormlessly hanging open, tongue flicking out, eyes

rolling, she totters and grimaces through the sort of material that Edna Everage does much better. When not heaving up her sagging bosom, accosting the audience and commenting on the original songs belted out on tape, the character hints at something deeper and more disturbing. References to leukaemia, to Germany no longer existing, to having been too late to see Paris, lead, as in Graham Greene's *A Distant Shore*, to the realisation that we are in some future post-disaster world. The message is a long time coming. Meanwhile the performance is amateurish and the material, directed and devised in collaboration with Rex Doyle, wretchedly thin.

MARTIN HOYLE



Grotesque caricature: Peta Lily as Edith Piaf

Tentative among the dolls

THEATRE
Coppélia
Festival Hall

awaited Swanilda on Thursday was danced with her usual meticulous skill and a bright, glossy finish. There is scope, however, for making the movement more expressive before this becomes a characterisation to match her Gubare in *The Corsair* or her Aurora in *The Sleeping Beauty*.

Some unusually fancy hand gestures in the opening scene suggested a possible line of development but were not followed up, and the Spanish and Scottish solos in her doll disguise were given little differentiation.

Rapport with her Franz, young Jose Manuel Carreno, seemed understandably at surface level: a matter of vivacious exchanges more than any sense of affection. He acted and danced with brash enthusiasm and a winning smile, if not as yet much sub-

tlety of characterisation. Koen Onzia at an earlier performance showed how much more can be made of that role with experience. He had the advantage of playing opposite Kevin Richmond's clear and intelligent portrayal of the role of Dr Coppélia.

With these two, Angela de Mello danced Swanilda, a bigger role than anything she has done before. She gave a confident, capable performance, but it would be good to see a little more variety of phrasing and individuality of interpretation.

JOHN PERCIVAL

Venality unbared

THEATRE
The Thrie Estaite
Assembly Hall, Edinburgh

McQuarrie's *Humanitie* (a gullible drip) beneath the royal duvet. And when David Rintoul's grim Divine Correction sends these ladies packing, where do they find sanctuary? Why, with the bishops, abbots and a prioress who wears scarlet beneath her black and has her heart set on the sweet life in France.

Fleming overdoes things a bit by slyly transforming his churchmen into a 16th-century soccer crowd, who swig from communion cups as from beer cans and launch into a cheering Mexican wave

when a Bible comes to grief. Yet the play itself is not without fun. Lyndsay was no dour Calvinist, and undercut his own crusading fury by so patently relishing the gule and zest of his Vices. That contradiction is not lost on Fleming's cast, particularly Andrew Dalmeyer's smirking Flatterie and Caroline Kaart's Sensualitie, a slatternly diva with a high C as ample as her bosom.

Yet, as always, Lindsey's radicalism is the surprise. His test of a good king is not just that he possesses the strength to resist corruption. He must also have the wisdom to give a voice and influence to men such as John the Commonweal who, in Alexander Morton's performance, is a blunt shop-steward, as sure of his rights as any of his Clydeside descendants. His reward here is a smart new robe and a place in parliament. It was to take him four more centuries to get much further than that.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES
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Is the Edinburgh Fringe too silly? asks Geordie Greig in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

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6.00 **Cosmic Book: Cartoons** 7.00 **Crossatalk**. Debates led by children
 7.30 **High 5**. Unusual sporting action 8.00 **Trans World Sport**.
 International sporting news and features
 9.00 **News** summary followed by **Channel 4 Racing: The Morning
 Line**
 9.30 **A Century of Childhood: Growing Up**. The first programme in
 the series which examines the changing experience of childhood
 looks at how relationships between boys and girls have changed
 (v). With signing and subtitles
 10.00 **Check Out \$1**. Consumer issues (v). (Teletext)
 10.30 **Wagon Train** (b/w). Classic western series
 11.30 **Australian Rules Football**. West Coast Eagles v Hawthorn
 12.30 **The Munsters** (b/w). Classic comedy about a ghoulish family.
 Starring Fred Goetz and Yvonne De Carlo (v)
 1.00 **Films If You Could Only Talk** (1936, b/w). Madcap farce starring
 Jean Arthur as a cook who falls in love with a butler who agrees to
 marry a socialite. With Herbert Marshall and Leo Carrillo. Directed
 by William Selter
 2.20 **Film: The Whole Town's Talking** (1935, b/w). Engaging comedy-
 thriller (making the afternoon's movies a Jean Arthur double-bill)
 about a shy hardware shop assistant who is mistaken for his
 gangster double and drawn into a life of crime. With Edward
 G. Robinson and Arthur Hohl. Directed by John Ford
 4.10 **Fish People**. A documentary exploration of the reasons five million
 people in Britain keep fish (v)
 5.10 **Brookside Omnibus**. Merseyside melodrama (v). (Teletext)
 6.30 **The Big S**. The first of six programmes following a knockout
 wheelchair basketball tournament from Sheffield, with the top
 eight teams competing to find Britain's best players. In the first
 game, old rivals Milton Keynes Aces take on the LGS Jets.
 (Teletext)
 7.00 **The World This Week**. With a look at Turkey's plans in northern
 Iraq; a report on the North American Free Trade area; and the
 problems of immigration from eastern to western Europe. Including
 News headlines and weather



Feeding hard to mouth: the New Zealand takahē bird (8.00pm)

8.00 **Kingdoms Of The East: Mountains of Water**.



Take the money and run: Tyne Daly, Richard Crenna (8.00pm)

8.00 **Les Femmes Lascieuses** (1979). Malle's marjinal study of collaboration in occupied France during the second world war, which focuses on a young peasant who is drawn into working with the Gestapo. With English subtitles. Starring Pierre Blaise, Aurélien Clement and Holger Löwenadler.

11.40 **As It Happens**. The McCarthey misses his loss with those of the coffee and the hot pool in the waters of the Mediterranean at Palma de Mallorca.

11.50 **Manhattan Cable**. Laurie Pike and Bill Judkins present another repeated edition of the zany cut-up show which goes into the often outrageous and always incredibly weakly world of the Big Apple's cable television service. In English, the programme, which is presented in the retro style of the 1960s, can occasionally be seen by their business in private, a chance to meet a 21-stone drug queen. Madonna ten and the New York tax drivers who talk frankly about who, and what, they have had in the back of their cabs (r).

1.55 **The Oprah Winfrey Show: True Romance**. Keep the issues as the ready for some true-life stories of real romance. Oprah's guests include an English actress who is aged 17 and is waiting for a merry wedding cake, and a woman who was taken for a cruise on the QE2 on a first class, in. Ends at 2.40.

SKY SPORT[illegible]

This month's QQ looks at Richard Branson and new age business methods. A top model and the clothes she really likes. Plus an A-Z of autumn style.

GQ. The men's magazine with an IQ.
September issue out now

TV VARIATIONS

TVS
As London escaped 12:00pm-1:00p Blockbusters 2.55 The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams 1.55 4.45 Films: No Time To Love 1.55 4.45 Films: No Time To Love 4.45
3:30p Six Seven 5:30p Australian Rap: Footstap 1p 12:30p Saturday Morning 1.55p 2:00p News 2:30p Not Another 4.45p
How Wonderful Is 5.00p Blockbusters 8.30p 7p Wonder Years 7:00p Newsworld 7:30p 8.30p 7p
8.30p 8.45p 8.45p 8.45p 8.45p 8.45p 8.45p
10:45p 10:45p Film: Zed's Dead Is Uncle 12:40p Frank's Place 1:10p Matthew C. Carr
1:55p The Grizzly Whaling Ship 2:40p Directed

TYPE

RTE1
Buckles 11:30am Roddy Holroyd 11:45p
Darts 12:00p The Midlands 12:30p Sport
Club International 1:00p 1:00p 1:00p
CHP 2:15p News followed by The Observer
Hour 3:10p Beyond 2000 4:00p Film: Gears
8:00p The Acropolis 8:01p News 8:15p
8:15p 8:15p 8:15p 8:15p 8:15p 8:15p
The Next Generation 8:50p Murphy's
Australia 9:00p News 9:30p Film: 12:15p
12:15p 12:15p 12:15p 12:15p 12:15p
News 12:30p Classics

ULSTER
As London escaped 12:50pm-1:00p The
12:50p 12:50p 12:50p 12:50p 12:50p 12:50p
of the Pirates 3:42-4.45 Highway to Heaven
12:50p 12:50p 12:50p 12:50p 12:50p 12:50p
The Bushmesters 2:00 The Hill Man
2:00 2:00 2:00 2:00 2:00 2:00
Top Ten 5:00-5:30p Superboy

GRANADA

RADIO 4

<p>(g) Stress on Fm 5.55pm Shipping Forecast 5.00 News 5.10, and 5.03 Weather 5.10 and 5.03 Wendy's 6.50 Prayer for the Day 6.55 Weather 7.00 Today, incl 7.00, 7.30, 3.00, 5.00 News 7.55, 8.55 Weather 8.55 Weather 8.00 News 9.00 Sport on 4 9.30 Breakfast: Ken Bruce with holiday and travel news 10.00 News: <i>Searchcom</i> - ... by the <i>Wey</i>. Last in the series (s) 10.30 Families and How to Survive Them: What Good Sex is Important. Last in the series (s)</p>	<p>5.30 Science News 6.00 Singers' Scots (new series): JB MacEwan, Opens Singers. Bonnie Buchanan visits five Scottish people who have excelled in their chosen field (s) (v) 5.25 On the Hour: The news as it happens, if it happens. A new type or current affairs programme ... with a twist or corrobey (s) (v) 5.30 Shipping Forecast 5.30, 5.03 6.00 News: Sports Round-Up With Great Pleasure: The feminist, novelist and playwright <i>Wey Weldon</i> introduces a selection of her books <i>Searchcom</i> - ... by the <i>Wey</i>. Last in the series (s)</p>
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FM Stereo and M
(FM only until 6.00a

Behind the scenes at the party

11.30 From Our Own Correspondent: Reflections of life and politics abroad

12.00 The Longfellow Lighthouse: In the first of four programmes, Paul Heneage visits Mac Macpherson and George Macdonald, kept at Longfellow Lighthouse for the past 15 years (r)

12.25pm The News Quiz: Barry Took quizzies Alan Clark, Richard Ingrams and guests on the week's events (c) 12.55 Weather

1.00 News

1.10 The Moral Maze: Michael Butts chairs an investigation into the moral questions behind the week's events (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast

2.00 News: The Moral Maze: 071-580 4411. Listeners can ring 071-580 4411 to give their views on the issues raised (r)

practically taste the salt in this routing table by Jack London, dramatised in four parts by E. C. Thompson. London's tales of heroic success with *The Sea Wolf* (1904), set on a sea-going schooner and when after he sailed to the Arctic in a sealing ship, *Adventure* (1906) about 40,000 miles. The story concerns the Wolf Larsen, skipper of the schooner *Ghost*, his motley crew and the literary critic who tried to sail with him, Jack Hall and Kerry Shann. The main characters and Elizabeth Parker's score perfectly catches the somber mood (s) 8.45 Kaleidoscope: The New York makes the painter Francis Bacon (s) 9.15 *It's a Wonderful World* (s) 9.50 *Top Ten* (s) 9.59 Weather 10.00 News 10.15 The Gardening Quiz (s) (r)


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ing 8.00 24 Hours Lhy. Ngy

Borders to find peace and
 tranquility, treated, he
 and his clerk found lurking
 beneath the surface (s) (s)
 4.00 The Living World: Peter France
 tours PM Database's 50-acre
 estate where on the Bagot
 Estate in Staffordshire
 11.00 The Times: Robb Ray
 asks Jim Gomez about the
 mavericks in music which send
 a shiver down her spine (s) (s)
 11.30 The Million Pound Race Show
 (s)
 12.00-12.30 News, incl. 12.30
 Weather 12.33 Shopping

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 105.84/2/268m; 108.9/2/275m; PM47 5.6.8. Radio 2:
 89.6/0.2. Radio 3: 121.5/1/247m; 102.4/2. Radio 4: 159.4/1/1515m; PM
 92.4/4.6. Radio 5: 86.3/2/4/23. Radio 6: 102.3/2/275m; PM47 5.6.8. Radio 7:
 94.4/2/489m. Jazz: FM 103.2. LSC: 115.2/2/275m; FM: 95.5/2/275m; FM: 95.5/2/275m;

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Comic Book: Cartoons 7.00 Crossatlat. Debates led by children
 7.30 High 6. Unusual sporting action 8.00 Trans World Sport.
 International sporting news and features
 9.00 News summary followed by Channel 4 Racing: The Morning
 Line
 9.30 A Century of Childhood: Growing Up. The first programme in
 the series which examines the changing experience of childhood
 looks at how relationships between boys and girls have changed
 (v). With signing and subtitles
 10.00 Check Out \$1. Consumer issues (v). (Teletext)
 10.30 Wagon Train (b/w). Classic western series
 11.30 Australian Rules Football. West Coast Eagles v Hawthorn
 12.30 The Munsters (b/w). Classic comedy about a ghoulish family.
 Starring Fred Goetz and Yvonne De Carlo (v)
 1.00 Films If You Could Only Talk (1936, b/w). Madcap farce starring
 Jean Arthur as a cook who falls in love with a butler who agrees to
 marry a socialite. With Herbert Marshall and Leo Carrilo. Directed
 by William Selter
 2.20 Film: The Whole Town's Talking (1935, b/w). Engaging comedy-
 thriller (making the afternoon's movies a Jean Arthur double-bill)
 about a shy hardware shop assistant who is mistaken for his
 gangster double and drawn into a life of crime. With Edward
 G. Robinson and Arthur Hohl. Directed by John Ford
 4.10 Fish People. A documentary exploration of the reasons five million
 people in Britain keep fish (v)
 5.10 Brookside Omnibus. Merseyside melodrama (v). (Teletext)
 6.30 The Big S. The first of six programmes following a knockout
 wheelchair basketball tournament from Sheffield, with the top
 eight teams competing to find Britain's best players. In the first
 game, old rivals Milton Keynes Aces take on the LGS Jets.
 (Teletext)
 7.00 The World This Week. With a look at Turkey's plans in northern
 Iraq; a report on the North American Free Trade area; and the
 problems of immigration from eastern to western Europe. Including
 News headlines and weather



Feeding hard to mouth: the New Zealand takahē bird (8.00pm)

8.00 Kingdoms Of The East: Mountains of Water.

**Feeding hard to mouth: the New Zealand takahē bird (8.00pm)**

8.00 Kingdoms Of The East: Mountains of Water.
● CHOICE: Cindy Bushton's and Colin Wilcock's film is as thoroughgoing from the *Survival Special* stable. Oddly enough, the least memorable thing about it is something it makes quite a fuss about — that with a guaranteed 200 rainy days a year, Florida is an area of mountain peaks, valleys and rivers in the southern corner of the Eastern United States. It's one of the wettest places on earth, so that the sound engineers working for television companies like *Angels* who have made this film about Florida don't need to worry about rain effects. *Mountains of Water* includes some fine shots of mountain parrots, lizards, crocodiles, penguins and — of course — water. But best of all are the sequences about the glorious, almost crystal-clear water that teaches the fish to lure their prey, and the conservationists who are helping to save the flightless kakapo bird from extinction by using arm gloves and artificial mothers. (Teletext)

9.00 Film: Lacombe Lucien (1975). Malle's masterful study of collaboration in occupied France during the second world war, which focusses on a young peasant who is drawn into working with the Nazis. With Jean-Claude Bouillon, Jean-Claude Bouillon, Starring Pierre Blaise, Aurélien Clement and Holger Löwenander

11.40 As It Happens. Pete McCarthy misses his loss with those of the toils and the hot pool in the waters of the Mediterranean at Palma de Mallorca

11.58 Manhattan Cable. Laurie Pike and Bill Judds present another repeated edition of the zany cult show which goes into the often outrageous and always thoroughly wise world of the Big Apple cable television services. In tonight's programme, there is a visit to the retreat where post-pleistocene surgery patients can lose their biases in private, a chance to meet a 21-stone drag queen, Madonna fan and the New York tax drivers who talk frankly about who, and what, they have had in the back of their cabs (r)

1.35 The Oprah Winfrey Show: True Romance. Keep the babies as ready for some true-life stories of real romance. Oprah's guests include an English girl who has married a black American, a merry-a-working class girl, and a woman who was taken for a cruise on the QE2 on a first class trip. Ends at 2.40

4.50 Chem. Attraction
Top 5 011-5 20 11

TVS

As London escaped, 12:00pm-1:00p Blockbusters 2.65 The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams 1.95 1.45 Film News Traces

TYPE TIES

Blockbusters 12:00pm-1:00p
The Murrhurs Top 1.55 Home Ties 2.55-4.45 Film: Jacqueline 12:35 Koko 1:50 The Twilight Zone 1:50 The Eastwinds 2:00 The Valley and the Sea 2:00 America's 4:30 America's Top Ten 5:08-5:30 Supperboy

ULSTER

As London escaped, 12:50pm-1:00p The 1975-1985 Anniversary 2.35 Film: Queen of the Pirates 3:42-4:45 Highway to Heaven 12:55pm Koko 1:50 The Twilight Zone 1:50 The Eastwinds 2:00 The Hill Man and the Girl 2:00 America's Top Ten 5:08-5:30 Supperboy

and Dog 1.55 Film:
Deep 3.20-4.45

RADIO 4

<p>(g) Stress on Fm 5.55pm Shipping Forecast 5.00 News 5.10, and 5.03 Weather 5.10 and 5.03 Wendy's 6.50 Prayer for the Day 6.55 Weather 7.00 Today, incl 7.00, 7.30, 3.00, 5.00 News 7.55, 8.55 Weather 8.55 Weather 8.00 News 9.00 Sport on 4 9.30 Breakfast: Ken Bruce with holiday and travel news 10.00 News: <i>Searchcom</i> - ... by the <i>Wey</i>. Last in the series (s) 10.30 Families and How to Survive Them: What Good Sex is Important. Last in the series (s)</p>	<p>5.30 Science News 6.00 Singular Scots (new series): JB MacEwan, Opens Singular. Stories include visits five Scottish people who have excelled in their chosen field (s) (v) 5.25 On the Hour: The news as it happens, if it happens. A new type or current affairs programme ... with a twist or corrobory (s) (s) 5.30 Shipping Forecast 5.30, 5.03 6.00 News: Sports Round-Up With Great Pleasure: The feminist, novelist and playwright <i>Wey Weldon</i> introduces a selection of her books <i>Searchcom</i> - ... by the <i>Wey</i>. Last in the series (s)</p>
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Whorehouse
drama by [unclear]
[unclear]

Borders to find peace and tranquility, treated, he says, like a clerk fawning beneath the surface) (s)

4.00 The Living World: Peter France tours PM Dabade's 60-acre estate above the Bagot Estate in Stailfordshire

11.00 The Tropic of Cancer: Robb Ray asks Jim Gomez about the nomads in music which send him down her spine (s) (r)

11.30 The Million Pound Race Show (s)

12.00-12.30 News; Int. 12.30 Weather 12.33 Shopping

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BBC 1

6.45 Open University: Easter Worship - The Greek Liturgy 7.10 Earthquakes: Seismology at Work 7.35 Wings: Cracks in the Forging 8.00 Flying Birds: An Experimental Approach 8.25 Maths Modelling: Sandcastles. Ends at 8.50

8.55 Playdays (r)

9.15 Summer Sunday. A service in Edinburgh's Prince's Street Gardens

10.00 The Egg and I (1947, b/w). Bantamweight comedy about a newlywed woman whose peace is shattered when her husband buys a chicken farm. Starring Claudette Colbert, Fred MacMurray and Richard Long. Directed by Chester Erskine

11.45 Excitement in the Air. A behind-the-scenes look at the making of the new adventure film *The Rocketeer*

12.05 Sign Extra: Great Expectations - Follow My Leader. Dr Marie Stewart looks at the role of women in British business today. With sign language and subtitles 12.30 Country File presented by John Craven

1.00 News followed by Speaking Volumes. P.D. James invites Frances Pyle, Jonathan Morley and Jonathan Morris to review the latest paperback releases, and Ted Alibon to reveal the secrets of thriller writing 1.45 Tom and Jerry Double Bill (r)

2.00 EastEnders (r). (Ceefax)

3.00 Dallas: Win Some, Lose Some. Liz bargains with J.R. in an effort to help Cliff - a big mistake if past Dallas history is anything to go by. (Ceefax)

3.45 The Black Addam on a Queen (1986). Of Blue Eyes cannot save this convoluted caper about an heiress to the Queen Mary - the thieves threaten to sink the luxury liner with a U-boat unless they are allowed to board and plunder the ship. Starring Frank Sinatra, Tony Franciosa and Yvonne Raine. Directed by Jack Donaghy. (Ceefax)

5.25 The Black and White. Cartoon with Barney Bear (r)

5.35 Safari Unit: The Living Planet. A series of nature documentaries examines the wildlife of moors and heaths (r). (Ceefax)

6.15 Lifeline. Charity news presented by Cliff Michelmore and Lynette Lithgow. Plus an appeal by Craig Charles on behalf of the Community Development Foundation

6.25 News with Melvyn Sturt. Weather

6.40 Songs of Praise from Darlington. (Ceefax)

7.15 Butterflies. Carla Lane's bitter-sweet sitcom. The formula tables are turned when Rita (Wendy Craig) realises Ben (Geoffrey Palmer) has the option of reclaiming an old flame (r). (Ceefax)

7.45 Around the World in 80 Days. Michael Palin sails out of Shanghai on a ferry bound for Japan (r). (Ceefax)

8.35 Film: A Hazard of Hearts (1987). Glossy gothic drama, based on a Barbara Cartland Regency romance, about a beautiful maid whose future lies in the hands of an aristocrat with a bad reputation. Starring Diana Rigg, Edward Fox and Helena Bonham Carter. Directed by John Hough. (Ceefax)

10.05 News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) and weather

BBC 2

6.35 Open University: Culture and Belief in Europe 1450-1800 7.00 Energy from Weeds 7.25 Introduction to Calculus Vectors 7.50 Looking at Heat Medical Uses 8.15 Origin of the Solar System: A Theory 8.40 Music: Formal Analysis 8.05 Computing: Data about Data 8.30 Sifted Structures 8.55 Organic Chemistry: It's Only Plastic 10.20 Designs for Living 10.45 Maths Group Theory 11.10 So You Want to be a Better Manager? 11.35 From Newton to the Sea

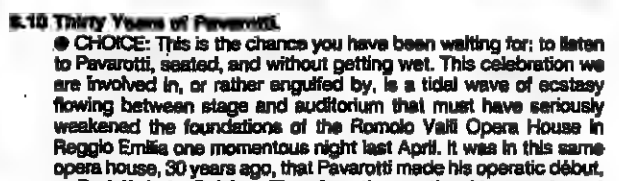
12.00 Eye Witness Memory. How psychologists are helping the police understand the way in which memory works, particularly in relation to witnesses' evidence. An interview. Techniques 12.25 The Ancient Egyptians. A look at the work of a clinical psychologist

12.50 Holiday Outings. Anne Gregg goes on a trip to Rajasthan in India and visits the cities of Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur (r). 1.00 Modern Art. An appreciation of Picasso's *Les Femmes d'Alger*

1.25 Sunday Grandstand introduced by Bob Wilson. The provisional line-up is: 1.30, 2.50 and 5.30 Motoring: the ACU Shell Superprix British championship from Oulton Park 2.00 Golf: the Westlake British women's open from Woburn; 3.15 Golf: the final round of the NI English open from the Belfry

6.30 One Man and His Dog. Phil Drabble introduces the second semi-final of the international sheepdog championships from Bessentwale, Cumbria. Plus another round in the brace championship

7.15 The Natural World: The Great Rift - Breaking the Continent. Andrew Sachs narrates the first part of the three-part African odyssey. The Ethiopian highlands (the largest area of high ground in Africa) have a landscape with wildlife found only on these freezing moorlands. This region leads to the Afar Triangle, an active volcano area, and to the north the Rift Valley forms a deep trench called the Red Sea, with spectacular coral reefs. This embryonic coast is widening each year, tearing Africa away from Asia, and as the Rift Valley continues to develop both humans and animals must adapt to new situations to survive (r)



A tidal wave of operatic ecstasy: Luciano Pavarotti (8.10pm)

8.10 Thirty Years of Pavarotti.

CHOICE: This is the chance you have been waiting for: to listen to Pavarotti, seated, and without getting wet. This celebration we are involved in, or rather argued by, is a tidal wave of ecstasy flowing between stage and auditorium that must have seriously weakened the foundations of the Romo Valli Opera House in Reggio Emilia one moment and then a gang of the Angels who row into town spreading fear and tension. But he clashes with the gang leader and finds he has made a dangerous enemy. Directed by Richard Rush. (Ceefax)

10.05 Film: He's a Man of the World (1987). A cult biker movie which featured Jack Nicholson two years before he took to fame in *Easy Rider*. A petrol pump attendant joins a gang of the Angels who row into town spreading fear and tension. But he clashes with the gang leader and finds he has made a dangerous enemy. Directed by Richard Rush. (Ceefax)

12.05am Film: Rumble Fish (1983, b/w). Matt Dillon stars as a tough teenager, living in the shadow of his idolised older brother, the Motorcycle Boy (Mickey Rourke). Francis Coppola directed this movie about two brothers who are outcasts, based on a novel by S.E. Hinton. With Diane Lane and Dennis Hopper. (Ceefax). Ends at 1.45

TV

8.00 TV-am includes, at 8.00 Even on Sunday

9.25 Film: King Lear (1988). A Czech-made telenovela based on a 19th-century Grimm story about a beautiful but arrogant princess whose father, to teach her a lesson in humility, makes her off to a beggar. Starring Jaroslav Vozabek and Jaroslav Vozabek, directed by Miroslav Luthar

10.45 Link. Actor Tim Barlow, who is deaf, talks about his life and career

11.00 Morning Worship from St Edward the Confessor, Keymer, Hampshire, East Sussex

12.00 An Invitation to Remember. Sir Brian Rix talks about his life and career

12.25 Way of the Lakes. Tony Warburton shows viewers the beauties of the Lake District National Park 12.55 LWT News and weather

1.00 News with Sue Carpentier. Weather

1.10 Breadline Britain. Housing conditions for the poor 1.40 Cartoon Time

1.45 Film: The Prince and the Pauper (1962). Enjoyable Disney version of the Mark Twain story (previously filmed with Errol Flynn) about the beggar boy who swaps places with his double - Edward Tudor, future king of England. Starring Sean Scully, Jane Asher and Donald Houston. Directed by Don Chaffey

4.05 Bobby Robson P.S.V. Gary Harrison follows Bobby Robson's return to club football - with HSV Eintracht

5.05 The London Match. Highlights of two matches from the Barclays League, with commentary by Brian Moore and Alan Parry. Plus the goals from yesterday's first division matches

6.05 News with Sue Carpentier. Weather 6.10 LWT News and weather

6.15 Faith in the Future. This second programme in the series about religion in Britain examines the phenomenal growth of evangelical Christianity. (Ceefax)

7.15 Watching. Paul Brown, Emma Wray and Liza Tarbuck star in a feature sitcom about an on-off romance (r). (Ceefax)

7.45 Great Expectations.

CHOICE: You really must stop comparing Kevin Connor's six-hour television series of Charles Dickens' novel with Robert Fryer's version, also made for television, in 1975. This explored in infancy from an anaemic, and would not have survived to childhood even if the original plan to make a musical of it had been adhered to. TV's *Great Expectations* is a superbly mounted, respectful of Dickens' text (screenplay by John Goldsmith), and at times brilliantly lit (the Satis House sequences). In the acting line, the undoubted successes are Joan Simmonds's Miss Havisham, the late Ray McAnally's Mr Jaggers, John Rhys-Davies's Joe Gargery (wrongly referred to once as Pip's father-in-law) and Owen Teale's Drummery (once as Pip's father-in-law)

8.45 News with Sue Carpentier. Weather 8.00 LWT Weather

9.05 The Man Who Lived at the Ritz. Concluding the mini-series about a would-be painter in Paris during the second world war, whose uncle leaves him the highly desirable bequest of a permanent suite at the Ritz Hotel. After his initial neutrality, Philip Webb discovers that there are causes worth dying for. Starring Kevin Spacey, John Gielgud, Charles Luntz, (Ceefax)

11.00 Sex Now. Same Sex. Better Sex? Yvonne Rourke looks at modern relationships and the sex diaries of anonymous contributors. Do gay men and women appear any differently from heterosexuals and are they any more successful in their relationships?

11.30 The River Thames. Gavin Weightman examines the history of London's water supply (r)

12.00 The ITN News. (Ceefax) 1.00 Music

2.00 Hodson Confidential. Philip Hodson chairs a discussion on domestic violence

2.30 Police President. Police drama starring Stefanie Powers as a young American music student who is writing a thesis on a dead composer. She is invited to the south of France by his widow and meets the whistling-bell sound of the composer, based on a novel by S.E. Hinton. With Diane Lane and Dennis Hopper. (Ceefax). Ends at 1.45

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5.30 ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Trans World Sport (r) 7.00 Eureka's Castle 7.30 Alfred J Kwak 8.00 Sharky and George 8.30 Raiders of the South Seas. Children's drama series 8.55 Kid 'N' Play. The animated adventures of two characters from the film *Home Party*

9.25 The Sword of Tipu Sultan. An Indian drama series set in the state of Mysore during the 18th century. In Hindi with English subtitles

10.00 Dispatches: Skeletons Have Names. Compelling and moving documentary which follows the progress of two Chilean sisters, who fled their country in 1974, on their quest to discover the truth about what happened to their brother who "disappeared" (r)

10.45 Dennis. Cartoon about a mischievous young leonard

11.00 Owl TV. Michaela Strachan hosts the children's wildlife and environmental programme. Today's edition includes a report on the effect of tourism on Gibraltar's Barbary apes (r). (Teletext)

11.30 The Lona Ranger (b/w). Vintage western 12.00 The Waltons 1.00 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea

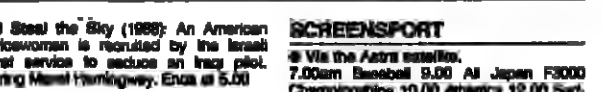
2.00 Film: Bell, Book and Candle (1958). Enchanting comedy starring James Stewart as a publisher who falls in love with a witch (Kim Novak) after she casts a spell on him. The excellent supporting cast includes Jack Lemmon, Hermione Gingold and Elsa Lanchester. Directed by Richard Quin

3.55 Arabesque Documentary exploring the popularity of Arabesque music which has flourished in Turkey since the Sixties despite the authorities banning its broadcast

4.55 News summary and weather 5.00 Family Pride. Birmingham-set soap opera about three Asian families

5.30 Anyone for Poley? A look at the customs of two clubs, one patronised by the aristocracy, the other by the nouveau riche (r)

6.30 The Cosby Show. American sitcom



Boasting mind over matter: a woman fights off disease (7.00pm)

7.00 Equinox: The Healing Mind.

CHOICE: There is at least one medical sociologist in the United States - and we hear from her in this documentary - who pours water on the fascinating theory it advances: that emotions could so strongly affect our body's immune system that we could fight off disease. Anecdotal reports aren't enough for her. Before she can accept "fairy tales", she must have data, solid information. She is going to have a long time to wait, because though *The Healing Mind* comes up with what looks like encouraging evidence, it concludes that there is still a long way to go. Meanwhile, the worried layman can sustain himself with the hope that eventually, the medical world will officially declare that the more he laughs, the longer he might live, even with cancer. Obliquely, *The Healing Mind* also gives a measure of credibility to 2001: A Space Odyssey. It believes the body's chemical response to excitement in the Space Age is little different to what it was in the Stone Age. (Teletext)

8.00 By Herself: Table for One. Third in the four-part drama series of self-contained stories, written and directed by Doris Chase, focusing on the older woman of today. Tonight's stars Geraldine Page as a single woman struggling to come to terms with her age and a world full of couples

8.30 Garrett Fitzgerald. Profile. Documentary profile of Dr Garrett Fitzgerald, the Irish prime minister during the Eighties

9.30 Go Fishing: Denmark. Angler John Wilson goes fishing for roach, bream and rudd in Denmark's River Gudon

10.00 Film: American Roulette (1988). Compelling thriller starring Andy Garcia as a South American poet and president-in-exile living in London where he is hunted by death squads and where he falls in love with a British anti-patriarch. Garcia, who won critical acclaim for his performance in *Internal Affairs*, gives a powerful and convincing performance as a man in danger trying to resolve the many conflicts in his personal and political life. With Kitty Aldridge, Robert Stephens and Alfredo Michelen. Directed by Maurice Hatten. (Teletext)

11.45 The Streets. Police drama following the fortunes of four New Jersey officers

12.15am Fortissima. New four-part Italian drama series set in a poor village during Mussolini's early years, starring Michele Placido and Antonella Murgia. With English subtitles. Ends at 1.15

ANGLIA

As London except 12.00 Journey 12.30 News 1.00 The Big Boat 1.30 The Big Boat 1.50 The Big Boat 2.10 The Big Boat 2.30 The Big Boat 2.50 The Big Boat 3.10 The Big Boat 3.30 The Big Boat 3.50 The Big Boat 4.10 The Big Boat 4.30 The Big Boat 4.50 The Big Boat 5.10 The Big Boat 5.30 The Big Boat 5.50 The Big Boat 6.10 The Big Boat 6.30 The Big Boat 6.50 The Big Boat 7.10 The Big Boat 7.30 The Big Boat 7.50 The Big Boat 8.10 The Big Boat 8.30 The Big Boat 8.50 The Big Boat 9.10 The Big Boat 9.30 The Big Boat 9.50 The Big Boat 10.10 The Big Boat 10.30 The Big Boat 10.50 The Big Boat 11.10 The Big Boat 11.30 The Big Boat 11.50 The Big Boat 12.10 The Big Boat 12.30 The Big Boat 12.50 The Big Boat 1.00 The Big Boat 1.10 The Big Boat 1.20 The Big Boat 1.30 The Big Boat 1.40 The Big Boat 1.50 The Big Boat 2.00 The Big Boat 2.10 The Big Boat 2.20 The Big Boat 2.30 The Big Boat 2.40 The Big Boat 2.50 The Big Boat 3.00 The Big Boat 3.10 The Big Boat 3.20 The Big Boat 3.30 The Big Boat 3.40 The Big 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THE TIMES BUSINESS

SATURDAY AUGUST 17 1991

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Business Editor
John Bell

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● WEEKEND MONEY 25-28
● SPORT 31-36

WEEKEND MONEY

Inflation convergence

The unlikely prospect of British inflation falling below the German rate moved closer yesterday. Retail prices in the UK rose 5.5 per cent in the year to July, the lowest rate for three years and just one percentage point above the German level. Economists are confident that the government will achieve its target of reducing inflation to below 4 per cent by the end of the year. The Germans had to raise interest rates this week to counter the threat of re-emerging inflation. Page 23



Cost of failure

Hard pressed home owners may think that repossession is the end of an ordeal. It may be the start of even more problems. Lindsay Cook reports. Page 25

Buying blind

Buying BT shares this autumn? You will soon be asked to select a share shop without knowing what its commission charge is going to be. Page 27

Tax charter

New user-friendly tax forms and explanatory leaflets are promised for the self-employed as part of the Inland Revenue's forthcoming tax payer's charter. Page 26

Your letters

Page 28



Drug store war

The battle for control of Macarthy, the pharmaceutical group, became a three-way fight when Lloyds Chemists made a surprise £80 million offer. Page 22

Scicon loses

One of Britain's largest independent computer software houses, SD-Scicon, lost its fight against a hostile bid from a subsidiary of General Motors. Page 23

£12m pub deal

Young & Co, the London brewery, has bought the Finch chain of pubs, which include Bill Bentley's wine bars, in a deal worth £12 million. Page 23



Cookson cuts

Cookson's debt mountain is shrinking fast. Latest moves in the group's reconstruction mean that loans are £500 million below their peak level. Page 23

Deals halted

Trading was suspended in shares of Salomon Brothers, the New York investment bank, amid rumours of top level management departures. Page 23

BCCI hopes

The Hong Kong offshoot of the stricken Bank of Credit and Commerce International may be saved from liquidation by cash from Abu Dhabi. Page 22

Widows' tales

Weekend Money tells of two widows given poor advice by financial advisers. The advisers would have received £6,000 in commission. "It bugs me that the bank should collect that sum of money for subjecting a woman like me to being browbeaten," said one. Consumer protection agencies are worried about advice with a bias towards high commission products. Page 27

WEEK ENDING

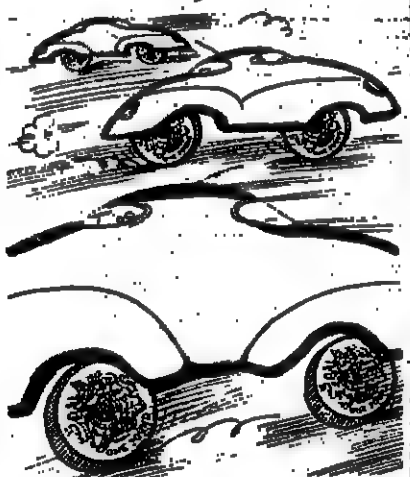
Matthew Bond

Thatcher Time revisited

For more than a decade a staple of the British summer has been the picture of a headscarfed Mrs Thatcher, accompanied by familiar husband and less familiar dog, striding along some gently undulating part of the south coast. This year has been very different, although it is electorally premature to say whether pictures of a be-shorted Mr Major scratching the ears of a passing Spanish donkey will become similarly established.

But was it really cricket that prompted the prime minister's return to London? A strangely familiar aura surrounding many of the financial events of the week supports an alternative explanation. Privately funded motorways, a multibillion-pound sale of government-owned BT shares, and the privatisation of the port of Tees and Hartlepool — there was no mistaking the whiff of Thatcherism in the air.

For those concerned to ensure the political correctness of their thinking it was a most confusing few days. Here, apparent-



ly, was a prime minister best known for promising a new golden age of railway travel giving the go-ahead for the first turnpike road for more than 150 years — a 30-mile motorway around Birmingham that will be built and run by an Anglo-Italian consortium led by Sir Nigel Brookes's Trafalgar House. The Automobile Association said the £1.50 a time toll was turning the clock back 100 years. Ten months looked nearer the mark.

The government's plans to sell all or part of its remaining 49 per cent stake in BT, the telephone company, did nothing to dispel the impression that the political clocks had gone back to British Thatcher Time. For just as the general public seemed to have lost all interest in, and indeed all means of, backing privatisation issues, the government has embarked on a fresh plan to widen share ownership with an enthusiasm that the charismatics would have been proud of.

Out go the City establishment, the stockbrokers who, by coincidence, had always been one of Mrs T's pet hates, and in come six high street banks, one building society and a BT subsidiary whose unenviable collective task it will be to establish the share shop as a feature of the British high street. In a week that confirmed that the British public is hard pressed to buy a suit (witness Sears' sale of Hone Brothers for £1) let alone a share, the government's decision seemed a triumph of expedience over experience.

Students of A-level economics, whose grades were delivered on Thursday, will doubtless have been relieved that they sat their examinations in June, well ahead of the new ammunition that last week's baffling array of economic indicators would have provided for an examiner. The "good things" were a 1.5 per cent increase in retail sales in June, a 3 per cent rise in industrial production and a fall in the rate of inflation to 5.5 per cent. The "bad things" were the biggest monthly rise in unemployment for more than five years, higher German interest rates and gloomy forecasts from both the Confederation of British Industry and the Bank of England. One leading economist described the situation thus: "Some of the indicators are pointing up and some of the indicators are pointing down." He did not disclose what A-level grade led him to this remarkable insight.

BUSINESS PROFILE: Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden

Guinness finds a strong head

The joint deputy chairman of Guinness deprives himself of television, bridge and chess. He tells Carol Leonard why

Cast your mind back to 1987. Speculation about the Guinness scandal, after its controversial £2.7 billion takeover of Distillers, was reaching fever pitch and Ernest Saunders, the Guinness chairman, had just been shown the door.

By 6am the following Monday, Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden, then Sir Norman, the temporary successor to Mr Saunders, was methodically drawing up a plan of action in Guinness's Portman Square headquarters.

Lord Macfarlane, now joint deputy chairman, says: "It probably wasn't a lot different from ladies drawing up their shopping lists." The first two tasks on his 12-point list were to find a new chief executive and a finance director. The last was to restore morale and credibility. "I simply worked my way through the list, ticking off items one by one. I knew that if I could work my way through them all, there was a good chance that it would all come right," he says.

Throughout the exercise, Lord Macfarlane had the feeling he had done it all before. He was reminded of Palestine in 1947. "It was under martial law and was a bit like Northern Ireland. Our camp was fenced with barbed wire and surrounded by orange groves, where terrorists hid and fired at us. I remember my battery commander saying, 'Right Mac, go for it', and I was sent out, with ten or twelve people, into those orange groves. I wasn't frightened from the point of view of my own safety, but I was frightened that I wouldn't do well. Then suddenly I realised that I knew what to do. It was simply a case of organising people to look for the terrorists — and doing Guinness was rather the same."

Lord Macfarlane, aged 65, was, until the Guinness affair, almost unknown outside Scottish industrial circles. The fact that he had amassed about 40 chairmanships and directorships had gone largely unnoticed. He had also built up the Macfarlane Group, his own packaging and printing company, which began with £200 army back-pay and became a publicly quoted business with 20 subsidiaries, capitalised at £90 million.

He remains chairman of Macfarlane Group and retains a personal stake of about 8 per cent, worth more than £7 million. His other chairmanships include The Fine Art Society, "worth millions and millions", where his family speaks for 20 per cent, making it the largest single shareholder, and American Trust. He is a director of General Accident, of Clydesdale Bank and is a patron of the National Art Collection Fund.

But despite such new-found wealth, Lord Macfarlane rarely discusses money. For someone who has clawed his way up from what he describes as a modest, middle class, Glaswegian family background, that is unusual. He could never be described as brash. He drives a Jaguar, lives in a Victorian house in the Bearsden district of Glasgow and has a second home on Scotland's east coast. He plays golf every Saturday morning, attends church every Sunday and allows himself a glass of Royal Lochnagar, his favourite malt whisky, most evenings. Apart from that, he eats and drinks sparingly, to the point where house guests have been known to complain privately that the Macfarlanes barely eat at all.

He exercises for 20 minutes every evening, but seems embarrassed when asked for details. He says: "Just the normal kinds of things. I won't reveal my secrets," then laughs, awkwardly. "A mixture of exercises, for suppleness as well as strength. It is much more

important to do them in a disciplined, regular way than for a long time."

He is unexpectedly protective of his personal life. Lord Macfarlane's superficially open manner is, perhaps, deceptive. When his wife, Greta, mother of his five children, was seriously ill recently, not even his secretary of 20 years was informed. He obviously believes there are certain things one must keep to oneself.

Yet ask Lord Macfarlane to describe himself and he will suggest that he is outgoing, gregarious, emotional, caring, good with people, a man's man and a keen sportsman. Likened, in his youth, to Clark Gable, he still carries himself well. He is lean and handsome and a little over six feet tall. With his immaculately coiffured silver grey hair, dark grey eyebrows, pale blue eyes and silver moustache, he could, indeed, be an ageing Hollywood star.

At the same time, however, his soft, Scottish brogue is so convincing that it is difficult not

to picture him in a kilt rather than a suit. He is such a good listener that, in different surroundings, he might be more easily taken for a kindly, country rector than a multi-millionaire entrepreneur, driven by a Calvinistic work ethic.

Angus Grossart, chairman of Noble Grossart, Guinness's merchant bank, says: "He does not have the score card mentality that drives so many top industrialists. He is not driven by a desire for fame or fortune. He is driven, instead, by the challenge of improving himself, in an aspiring, traditional, Scottish way. He does subscribe to the Calvinistic work ethic, he believes in hard work and he does not believe in shortcuts. He stretches himself as much now as he did 20 years ago."

Another friend, Alan Waddle, agrees that Macfarlane could come across as a rural vicar. He is living proof, Waddle says, that "good guys can finish first". But he is in no sense a pushover. Waddle says: "You only have to play one hole of golf with him to know that beneath that beautiful Brylcream exterior lies a very competitive soul. He is shrewd, energetic, extremely determined and has great judgement. But he never gives anything away. He would not give you a putt of six inches — there is always a chance that you will miss."

Lord Macfarlane, although superficially relaxed, often uses words such as loyalty and discipline. Most of the disciplines to which he refers were instilled in him by his mother, Jesse, to whom he was extremely close.

A party of Japanese visitors who asked for two tips of his success were told to polish their shoes and to smile. Lord Macfarlane smiles often and easily. "The bit about keeping your shoes clean, about being neat and tidy, comes from my mother."

Although they do not appear to weigh heavily on him, he is very aware of what he sees as his duties: supporting bodies that help alcoholics, because he is in the drinks industry; saying thank you, face to face, to someone who has worked for the company for 40 years; encouraging the younger managers; representing Scottish interests within companies or organisations; and safeguarding the national heritage.

Even his peerage, bestowed in the Queen's Birthday Honours, is taken seriously. "Whether I like it or not, I am going to go to the House of Lords and make a contribution," he says. But friends insist that his ennoblement has changed neither Macfarlane nor his wife.

He still does not allow himself to watch television or to play bridge or chess, which he would



Fine art: Lord Macfarlane, who in his youth was likened to Clark Gable, with Greta, his wife

Doubts nag bloodstock underwriters

By JONATHAN PRYNN

IF YOU thought betting on a horse to win a race was an exact science, try betting on the 1988 year of account, Steve Chappell, the underwriter, said that the downward trend of rates had been caused by overcapacity and foolish underwriting.

Terry Minahan, the chairman of Bloodlines, a specialist bloodstock insurance broker, said that premium rates had fallen by at least 40 per cent since 1984 to about 3 per cent for a basic mortality and theft policy.

The market is also being affected by the stranglehold on the industry by Arab owners. Insurance against death is frowned on by Koranic law and the size of the stables makes paying the

premium uneconomic. "If you have hundreds of horses and you expect only 2 or 3 per cent to die you can afford to carry your own risk," said Mr Minahan. Even the Gulf war has had little effect on the massive buying power of the most powerful Arab owners. At the Keeneland yearling sale in July, the four Maktoum brothers accounted for 30 per cent of all the purchases.

The trend towards lower premium income has coincided with a series of major claims. Last November's death of Alydar, the world's most expensive stallion, was to the bloodstock insurance market what Piper Alpha was to excess of loss. Alydar's death cost the London market at least \$30

million and is likely to delay for at least another year a return to profit for the specialist bloodstock syndicates. Another valuable horse, Tate Gallery, which was valued at £4 million, had to be destroyed last year.

Despite the gloomy results outlook for 1989 and 1990, names' agents are continuing to support the bloodstock syndicates. Rates are expected to start rising later this year and some capacity has already been squeezed out of the London market, with General Accident one of the first to announce its withdrawal. Names will no doubt be relieved to learn that, in insurance parlance, bloodstock does not have a long tail.

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shareholder, has agreed to give any buyer a commercial guarantee to cover any shortfall in the bank's assets or unrecorded liabilities.

Mr Carse said, however, that he was not aware that any significant hidden liabilities had been discovered at the bank by its provisional liquidators.

BCHHK's potential buyers

The shipment was cleared on July 3, two days before the Bank of England closed BCCI. Staff at BCCI's Leadenhall Street headquarters failed to complete a bankers' draft of £25,600 to HSL before regulators ordered them to leave.

HSL then asked the World Bank to pay the funds direct, or through another bank. But

Rembrandt.
A higher world gold price would also refocus attention on the market there, and in turn encourage wider and more general interest in non-mining issues quoted in Johannesburg.

Ethical funds that can no longer have any valid objection to South Africa on racial grounds may, one day,

Airtours

COMMON sense suggests that Airtours shares have had their run and that investors would be wise to lock into some of the profit.

Since March 1, the shares have soared from 173p to a high of 691p, slipping back to 665p yesterday. The rise continued despite a three-for-one rights issue in April and investors who subscribed for

EXPLAURA Holdings, the Canadian quarry group, which last month appointed **Rudolph Agnew** chairman and **David Singleton** managing director, has signed a ten-year exclusive distribution agreement to supply limestone aggregates to a New York building materials company. The shares rose 1p to 15½p.

DUNTON Group, the USM-quoted brick maker and property group that was the subject of March's rescue reverse takeover by Holywell Property, a private commercial property investment company, has passed its final dividend (0.52p) as full-year losses deepened.

Pre-tax losses were £4.45 million (£76,000 loss) in the year to end-May. Dunton blamed the recession. The loss per share was 7.74p (0.42p loss) and the company had also passed its interim payment (0.48p). The shares lost 1½p to 5p.

Stock market, page 24

"Until her arrest on charges of conspiring to swindle £1.6bn from Japan's top banks, an Osaka restaurant owner who claims to receive share tips from heaven was one of the biggest individual stockmarket players in Tokyo."

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ASSETS APPROXIMATING £600 MILLION

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Government finances back in the black

Inflation falls to 5.5% for three-year low

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

INFLATION fell to its lowest level for three years in July because of sharp declines in food prices and a half-point cut in mortgage rates.

The official inflation rate fell to 5.5 per cent from the 5.8 per cent recorded in each of the previous two months. With last summer's sharp rises in petrol prices due to drop out of the annual comparison from August onwards, the headline inflation rate seemed well on course to hit the Treasury's year-end target of 4 per cent or less.

However, the government's own preferred measure of "underlying inflation" — the retail price index excluding mortgage interest payments — remained much higher, at 6.8 per cent. This figure was down slightly on the 6.9 per cent reported in June, but higher than May's 6.6 per cent.

The falls in both the headline and underlying inflation rates matched City expectations, so yesterday's figures had little impact on the financial markets.

Most analysts said that inflationary conditions in Britain were well under control, and the prospects for further improvements were clear enough to remove any domestic obstacles to lower interest rates.

Over the next three months, the energy price increases that followed the invasion of Kuwait will be dropping out of the annual comparison. These added 2.7 percentage points to the RPI between August and October last year. In addition,

the last cut in mortgage rates will reduce the August RPI by about 0.25 of a point, government statisticians said.

As a result, the annual inflation rate reported for October is almost guaranteed to be much lower than yesterday's 5.5 per cent, even if there is no further slackening in the monthly advance in prices.

As headline inflation continues to fall, however, the external constraint imposed by the European exchange-rate mechanism is likely to take over from the RPI as the dominant factor in the Chancellor's decisions on interest rates.

Sterling weakened slightly against the German mark and fell sharply against the dollar yesterday as foreign exchange markets continued to digest the small rise in German interest rates and a slew of American economic statistics this week.

On balance, the Bundesbank's apparent caution and the better than expected American trade figures were taken as bullish for the dollar. The strong speculative selling of marks for dollars left sterling sidelined in the foreign exchanges, but some analysts gave warning that enthusiasm for the pound was waning with each reduction in its interest rate advantage over the mark.

With some officials at the Bundesbank hinting that a further rise in German interest rates might be necessary in the autumn, and the difference between rates in London and

Frankfurt down to just 1½ per cent on three-month money, Britain's ability to cut its interest rates might be severely curtailed.

Even so, the lower inflation figures were seen by the Treasury as excellent news in their own right. The Treasury noted that inflation had now almost halved since the peak of 10.9 per cent reached last October and pointed to this as proof that the government's economic strategy was on course.

Officials also maintained that lower inflation would pull the economy out of recession by bolstering consumer confidence and raising real incomes.

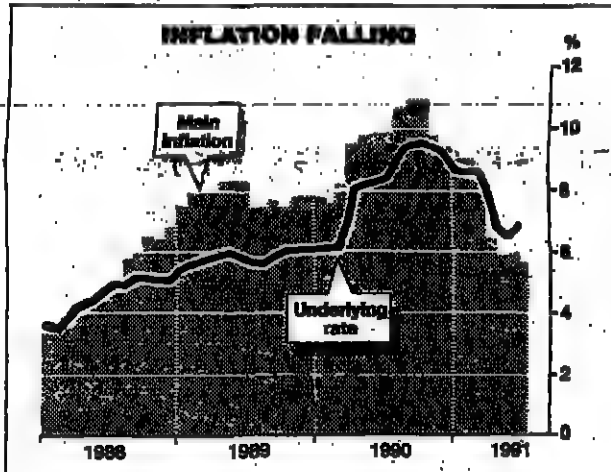
In a separate announcement on the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR), the Treasury said yesterday that the government's finances returned to the black last month, but not by as much as expected.

The figures showed a £960 million surplus in July, compared with City predictions of about £2 billion. The PSBR for the first four months of the financial year was £6.1 billion, against £2.9 billion for the same period last year.

The PSBR figure suggests the government will have trouble meeting its Budget target of an £8 billion deficit this year. The City now expects the figure to be closer to £12 billion. The recession has contributed to the drain on government finances by reducing tax revenues and boosting state spending in areas such as unemployment benefits.

The American department of commerce yesterday revealed that the trade deficit dropped 16 per cent during June to \$40.2 billion, the lowest in eight years. But May's deficit was revised up to \$4.79 billion from the previously reported \$4.57 billion.

The June fall reflected a 3 per cent decline in imports to \$38.86 billion, while exports fell 1.2 per cent to \$34.84 billion. America also enjoyed better than expected industrial production in July. It rose 0.5 per cent.



Salomon shares halted amid speculation over Gutfreund

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK Stock Exchange officials yesterday ordered a halt to the trading of shares in Salomon Brothers, the scandal-hit investment bank, amid widespread speculation that John Gutfreund, the bank's chairman and chief executive, was about to resign.

The exchange said it acted pending news from the bank. But Salomon said: "We have nothing to say at this time."

The shares have plunged by almost a third this week and stand at \$27½.

Three senior executives of Salomon Brothers, which is one of Wall Street's top ten investment banks, admitted on Thursday that they knew the bank had violated dealing rules in the United States Treasury securities market. But they had failed to report it for several months, until an

official government investigation had been under way for six weeks.

Initially, Salomon issued a statement saying senior management had no knowledge of the breaches of the law.

The breaches could cost the investment bank its licence to trade in the \$2,200 billion Treasury market and could also lay senior managers and other staff open to criminal and civil prosecution.

Mr Gutfreund, Thomas Strauss the bank's president, and John W. Meriwether, the vice-chairman, have admitted knowing of one serious breach of the dealing rules in April.

Salomon says that a decision was taken to inform the authorities at the time, but this was not carried out immediately.

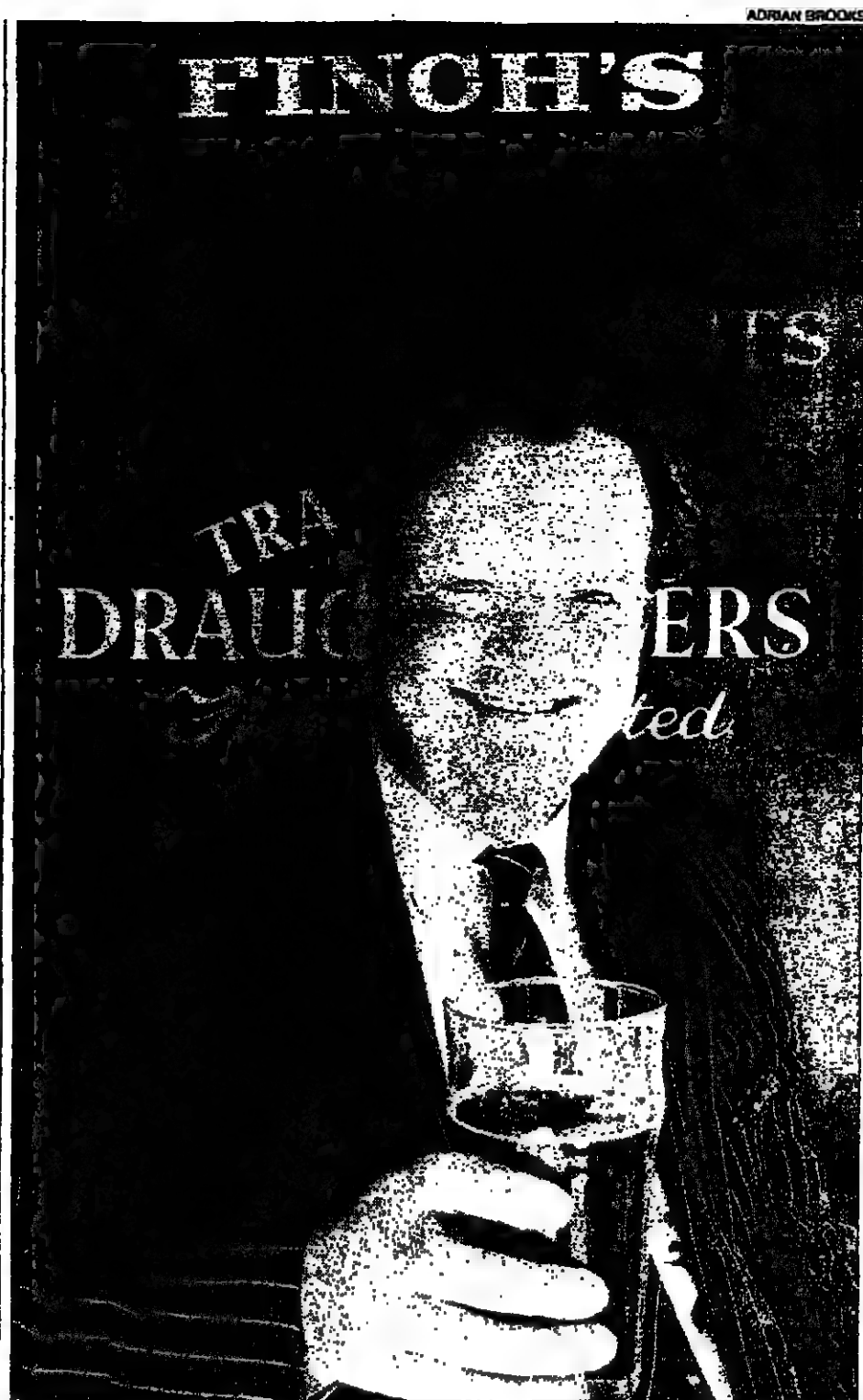
The bank is accused of

attempting to corner large quantities of Treasury bonds during the regular monthly auctions of government paper. It is said to have done so in an attempt to drive up the price at which they could sell the bonds on to customers.

Salomon was already losing customers yesterday. Several investment funds run by state authorities have withdrawn business because their charter forbids them from dealing with those under government investigation.

Salomon's staff are worried that their bonuses are at risk, fearing the bank will have to make provision for any financial penalty that may be imposed.

This was to have been a good year for Salomon. One analyst said the bank had been having its best year in terms of profits for some time.



Toast to tradition: Patrick Read, managing director of Young, at a Finch pub yesterday

Finch pubs chain sold to Young & Co for £12m

By MATTHEW BOND

HH FINCH, the private company that owns a number of London public houses and the Bill Bentley chain of wine bars, has been bought by Young & Co, the brewery, for almost £12 million.

The sale brings to an end 126 years of independence at Finch, which was renowned for its traditional pubs. However, a spokesman for Young's, where Patrick Read is managing director, said yesterday that the brewery planned to maintain the style of the pubs and trade under the Finch name.

He added most customers referred to the company's 22 pubs simply as Finch's, and were hard-pressed to remember the signed names such as The Kings Arms in Fulham Road and the Black Horse in Marylebone High Street.

Young's beers are currently included in the range served in Finch's pubs. The spokesman said a decision on how many other beers would be served alongside the Young's range had yet to be taken.

John Young, the chairman, said: "We are delighted to have acquired such a well established and successful business at a reasonable price. This represents a significant step forward in the further development and realisation of our long-term strategy."

He added that Young had looked at more than 1,000 pubs for sale in and around London, but had concluded that Finch represented the most attractive opportunity.

In the year to end-March, Finch made pre-tax profits of £605,000, which, on a standard tax charge, suggests an exit multiple of about 30.

About £10 million of the consideration is being paid in

cash and loan notes, while £1.8 million will be in the form of new non-voting ordinary shares.

The company has net assets of £7.3 million, most of which stems from the group's freehold and leasehold properties. These have a book value of

£6.9 million but are, in the opinion of the Finch board, worth more than £9 million.

The vendors of Finch, which include descendants of Henry Hobson Finch, the company's founder, have agreed to retain at least half the shares for two years.

EDS wins fight for SD-Scicon in £162.4m hostile takeover

By MARTIN BARROW

SD-SCICON, the British software company, has conceded defeat in its battle against a £162.4 million hostile takeover bid from EDS, a subsidiary of General Motors, after the collapse of last-minute negotiations with a substantial shareholder.

EDS claimed victory for its 60p-a-share cash offer after securing acceptances from Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, whose 14.7 per cent shareholding made it the largest uncommitted shareholder. EDS directly held more than 34 per cent including a 25 per cent stake acquired from British Aerospace.

Morgan Grenfell Asset Management declared its stake in favour of EDS after declining to accept a marginally higher offer, worth 60½p, that was tabled by SD-Scicon earlier this week, on behalf of World Software, a Dutch company.

Keith Perry, chief executive of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, said that the offer was rejected "after 48 hours of agonising" because World Software would not extend it to other shareholders.

"We could not have deprived other shareholders of an offer," said Mr Perry. "We were uncomfortable with this so we gave 24 hours for them to make a general offer."

When the offer failed to materialise Morgan Grenfell Asset Management accepted EDS's terms, making defeat for SD-Scicon inevitable. "At 60p the company was more than fully valued," he said.

The decision angered John Jackson, the chairman of SD-Scicon, who says that a different sequence of events took place. He said that, after he had secured the support of shareholders speaking for about 40 per cent, including Prudential, Morgan Grenfell had shown interest in the offer from World Software, but imposed a deadline which had not been met.

"Fund managers have no responsibility other than to

their clients," said Mr Jackson. "Matters concerning other shareholders were the board's responsibility, not Morgan Grenfell's. They intruded into our territory. They are also seriously wrong about the value of our company and I hate giving away British companies."

Cookson twin deal cuts debt

By COLIN CAMPBELL

COOKSON Group yesterday sold one company and bought another, in moves that will further cut its debt.

AJ Oster, the brass mill products concern, the original 1978 purchase of which brought Richard Oster, now managing director, into Cookson, is being sold to Olin Corporation of America for \$82 million cash. The electric powers business in Sun Valley, California, owned by Du Pont, is being bought for \$15 million.

The latest deals bring to more than £500 million the amount by which Cookson has trimmed its debt, which now stands at £250 million, equivalent to a gearing level in the mid 30 per cent region.

Further asset sales are likely, and the object remains to clip Cookson's gearing to below 30 per cent by the year-end.

Mr Oster, emphasising that the disposal of Oster "was not a fire sale", said that company's brass mill business fitted better with Olin Corporation, while the purchase from Du Pont sat nicely with Cookson's ceramic powders.

Oster had net assets of \$54 million at December 31, and reported operating profits of \$6.3 million in 1990. The sale was made on approximately 20 times historic earnings.

Cookson shares rose 1p to 113p.

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Bond laid bare by Dallhold sale

By ANGELA MACKAY

ALAN Bond's personal assets started falling under the auctioneer's hammer in Perth this week, beginning with small beer like cars and working up to the climax next month, the sale of his extensive collection of modern art.

Part of the car fleet sold on Wednesday included a six-year-old dark blue Mercedes that fetched Aus\$60,000 (£28,000) and a 1987 silver grey model that went for Aus\$74,000, while a Mitsubishi four-wheel drive and a Hyundai XL were snapped up together for Aus\$25,000.

The assets are owned by Dallhold Investments, Mr Bond's family company, which was placed in provisional liquidation in July owing "well in excess of Aus\$1 billion" according to the liquidator.

Dallhold, on the other hand,

has estimated assets of only Aus\$41 million, one third of them paintings such as a Renoir valued at Aus\$3.5 million and Aus\$5.5 million worth of early Australian art.

Creditors will not be able to get their hands on Dallhold, the palatial Bond family home, because it is held in trust by a company, that belongs to Mr Bond's eldest son, John.

Mr Bond, however, may be forced to ask John to make the ultimate sacrifice because the liquidators on Tuesday ordered the ebullient businessman to repay the Aus\$23.5 million he borrowed from Dallhold on his personal account.

If that is not headache enough, several bank creditors have commenced action to try to enforce personal guarantees Mr Bond granted on several hundred million dollars of Dallhold debt.

Mr Bond is mostly in Perth



Bond: final ignominy

these days, his globe-trotting style carried somewhat. In contrast, Ellen, his wife, has been spending most of her time on the other side of the country in Queensland, pulling beers in her younger son's public house.

It is not all gloom for shareholders, however. Bond

Corp's restructuring plan was finally approved by the courts yesterday after the company avoided delisting by the Australian Stock Exchange when it agreed on Thursday to abide by all the exchange's listing rules.

Bond Corp's creditors will exchange their debt for a combined 90 per cent equity interest in the former brewing, property and resources group. Dallhold will eventually own only about 5 per cent of the restructured company compared with its original holding of 54 per cent.

As for Mr Bond, not only did he resign as chairman last September to appease the creditors after the group lost Aus\$3.2 billion in two years, but the creditors now want him to face the final ignominy of having his name erased from the masthead of the company he worked 30 years to build.

[illegible]

Fimbria gives brokers a churning

Investors may be a teensy bit safer as a result of disciplinary action taken by the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbria). It has ordered a broker to pay £365,000 for allegedly switching clients from a broker bond to a managed unit trust to earn extra commission.

Churning has long been a money-earner for less reputable investment salesmen. Now some may think twice about it. It is usually the investors who pay, although they often do not realise how much it costs them.

The low sale or surrender price for one investment reduces the amount that can be invested in the new product, even before the commission and setting-up costs of the second are taken into consideration. The clients of Fisher, Prew-Smith, the broker, are now to receive £335,000 to compensate them for the transfer of their money without their permission.

A further £30,000 is to be paid

in fines and costs to the regulator. The broker had originally appealed against the ruling and compensation, but this week gave up the fight. It is the first case where a broker has been publicly ordered to make a substantial refund to investors for churning. The case involved more than 1,000 clients, making it easier for Fimbria to spot than the more usual day-to-day movement of money.

Fimbria says it is vigilant during compliance visits in trying to spot signs of churning. If it appears funds are moved around a lot of questions will be asked, the regulator says.

Investors should also ask any financial adviser for the reasons behind any switches made or suggested. While the commission earned by investment advisers remains hidden from view at the time the recommendation is



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

made, clients need to be on their guard that commission is not coming ahead of their interests in the broker's mind. It is never too late to question investment decisions.

Investors looking back over the years who are concerned about the movement of contracts should first of all contact their broker for an explanation. If no satisfactory reason is given for switching then the firm's regulator should be told.

If churning is suspected there is now a precedent for a refund. After all, a few fees-led switches

can be very damaging to an investment portfolio. Too often the losses are only discovered at the time the money is needed.

No change

The new taxpayer's charter is a missed opportunity. It is easy to make fine-sounding promises about fairness, efficiency and accountability, but in reality the charter is toothless. None of its promises is legally binding. There are no penalties for Revenue staff who fail to

abide by the charter. The Revenue has set itself no time limits for replying to correspondence, which it admits is one of the main reasons dealings with the tax office are often so protracted. There are also no specific rules set out for taxpayers who have paid too much and who are owed money with interest by the Revenue.

The public will have little reason to revise its opinion that the taxman does not practise what he preaches and is much keener on getting the money in than on paying it out. Target times for replying to correspondence and paying refunds are being published, but no time limit has been set for their publication.

The Revenue excuses the tardiness of some of its dealings with the claim that some departments are better at re-

sponding to letters than others, which means "there is no point in rigid turnaround times". If the work of some departments is more complex than others then the department should analyse the time it needs to deal with queries and work within that limit.

Nothing appears to have changed for taxpayers, who should already be receiving the sort of service set out in the charter and who should demand nothing less from a public service that plays such an important and dominant role in people's lives.

If the taxpayer's charter was to be anything more than a publicity stunt, it should have set Revenue staff targets for replying to correspondence and paying refunds.

The charter should also have simplified the long-winded complaints procedure, which gives taxpayers no means of independent redress except from the parliamentary ombudsman, who has to be contacted indirectly by an MP.

Borrowers must foot bill for repossession

BY LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

BY THE end of June, mortgage lenders had 53,000 repossessed properties on their books from people who could not keep up with their payments. Currently, they are selling 1,500 a month, but repossessions are racing ahead and the stockpile is increasing.

Many mortgagors believe that losing their home is the end of the line and that by relinquishing their keys they can leave behind the terrible financial strain they have been suffering. Until the property is sold, however, their problems may not be over. Mortgage interest continues to build up and will be set against the sale price, along with the costs of the sale arranged by the lender and any expenses incurred in the upkeep of the property.

Where the property fetches less than the mortgage, it is the lender or the insurance company that issued a mortgage guarantee or indemnity policy that stands the loss. If the homebuyer put down a substantial deposit, it is the money they hope to use to start again that is eroded.

In some cases, where the lender or insurance company believes that the borrower could afford to meet the mortgage payments but has chosen not to because the value of the property has fallen to below the mortgage debt, they may sue the defaulter.

An increasing number of homebuyers have reneged on their mortgages in the belief that the lender will stand the loss and they can start again.

From this week, the Council of Mortgage Lenders has established a register of people who have had properties taken into possession by their lender either voluntarily or with a court order. Previously they would have been able to walk away from a mortgage involving a loss on a property and start again with a new loan from another lender.

The vast majority of repossessions involve genuine hardship. The fact that 50 per cent of properties were voluntarily handed over could give the wrong impression, said Mark Boleat, director general of the Council of



'There's little conflict over the value put on properties'

Mortgage Lenders. Many gave up their keys when a court hearing was imminent rather than face the proceedings.

Frank Bartlett, head of lending services at the Woolwich Building Society, stressed that lenders did not apply for possession orders without exploring every means of resolving the problem. "We know that the courts will not give an order if every avenue has not been explored," he said.

During the first six months of the year, lenders applied for 87,459 court orders, up 38 per cent, and got these in 33,778 cases, a rise of 53 per cent.

There are strict rules on how properties taken into possession are handled. Mr Bartlett said: "They are sold for the best possible price. Building societies have a statutory duty to do so. Other lenders have a common law duty to do so."

Lenders are also expected to dispose of properties as quick-

ly as possible to avoid excessive interest being logged up. An independent valuation of the property is obtained. In some cases lenders accept the valuation of an estate agent that is owned by the society instructed to sell the property.

Mr Bartlett said that usually there was little conflict over the value put on a property because the borrower had been trying to sell it and knew how difficult the property market was.

Typically, properties take three to four months to sell, but others could sell more quickly. Those that took longer were usually in areas where there was a surplus of properties on the market. Some were in poor condition and became more stale the longer they were on the market, Mr Bartlett said.

Auctions of repossessed properties have been held, but most lenders try to avoid

letting prospective buyers know a property's history as this can knock the price achieved. The home owner might be able to argue that the best price had not been achieved where a property was auctioned since ordinary homebuyers tend to avoid such sales. They attract speculators looking for bargains. For this reason lenders usually use auctions as a last resort.

Terms and conditions applying to repossessions are supplied to borrowers when a mortgage offer is accepted. Those of the Halifax Building Society, the largest mortgage lender, are typical. They state that the society can take possession if there is a default in payment for two months.

The fact that there are about 60,000 borrowers more than a year in arrears indicates the reluctance of mortgage lenders to foreclose as soon as they are legally entitled to do so.

General is reluctant to put a figure to its losses before the half-yearly results come out on September 12, but Mr Young suggested that some lenders with poor arrears records will have to charge borrowers 30 per cent more. Some lenders could be refused cover altogether for certain kinds of riskier loans, such as non-status mortgages or low-start loans.

The company is also considering taking legal action against a number of homebuyers who have walked away from their property when its value fell below the level of the mortgage, despite being able to afford repayments.

Mr Young said: "There are a number of cases which we have solicitors looking at at the moment. We have a responsibility to discourage people from walking away from their loans."

Other insurers, including Sun Alliance and Eagle Star are cagey about revealing their losses because they are set to announce their half-yearly figures in the first weeks of September.

Michael Heath, Eagle Star's marketing director, said, however, that an increase in rates for most people was inevitable and that some lenders would be refused cover. "Simply put, this problem could be dealt with by an increase in rates. But the whole practice of lending needs to be improved if this insurance is to continue to exist." Eagle Star provides indemnity cover for most of the bigger lenders.

THE number of court actions and possession orders in the Midlands and the North increased at a greater rate than those in London and the Southeast in the first six months of this year. This is due to the deepening effects of the recession reaching all parts of the country (Sara McConnell writes).

Figures from the Lord Chancellor's office show that possession orders on homes in the west of England nearly doubled from 1,222 in the first half of 1990 to 2,223 in the first half of 1991. There were also sharp increases in possession orders served in the Midlands, Wales and the Northeast. London and the Southeast got off comparatively lightly. Possession orders in London rose by 41 per cent and in the southeast counties by 42 per cent.

The sharpest increases in numbers of home owners taken to court by lenders was in Wales and Chester, which showed a 51 per cent rise from 7,817 to 11,822 in the first half of each year.

Northern and western England both showed a 47 per cent increase. In the Southeast counties, 24,452 court actions were initiated by lenders, a figure only 28 per cent higher than the same period in 1990.

Suspended orders, which allow a lender to take possession if the home owner

Court actions increase as the recession heads north

does not uphold agreements to pay reached in court, were up 78 per cent in Wales and Chester, 62 per cent in the southeast counties and 51 per cent in the Northeast.

Figures from a building society in the North confirm the Lord Chancellor's findings. Repossessions are no longer a phenomenon of the South.

The number of homes in the north of England and Scotland repossessed by the Skipton Building Society rose dramatically over the last six months, and this trend looks set to continue at least until the end of the year, the society said this week.

The repossessions book of the Skipton, the 16th largest society, showed that homes in the north accounted for 66 per cent of repossessions in the

first six months of 1991 while those in the south represented 34 per cent. The Northwest has been particularly hard hit, with repossessions in Lancashire and Merseyside accounting for nearly one in five of the total so far this year.

There has been a substantial shift away from the Southeast, which represented 50 per cent of all repossessions last year, far more than any other region.

Yorkshire and Humberside was the next worst hit at the end of 1990, accounting for 19 per cent of all repossessions. In the first six months of 1991, the Skipton's repossessions in the Southeast represented a third of the total.

The society declined to give a total for repossessions but said that it had a higher than

average number of repossessions for people who could pay but would not. Cases of genuine hardship represented two-thirds of the national average figure.

David Charlton, the Skipton's assistant general manager, said: "We anticipate the industry's figures to remain bleak for some months yet as last year's arrears become this year's repossessions."

Unemployment and high interest rates have combined to hit those who stretched themselves to get on the property ladder before multiple tax relief on mortgage interest was abolished in 1988. Professional people, defined by the society as doctors, dentists, solicitors, architects and accountants, accounted for 51 per cent of all the society's repossessions last year.

Some of these were attracted by a limited offer of a loan of four times income, which was withdrawn just before the abolition of multiple tax relief. Others were being offered a standard multiple of between 3.5 and 3.75 times income.

A spokeswoman said: "They wanted to get in before the abolition of multiple tax relief and anticipated increases in earnings."

Next week the Skipton will publish an update on its breakdown of repossessions by occupation.

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Cost of loan indemnity to rise

By Sara McConnell

MOST borrowers taking out loans for more than 75 per cent of the value of their property will have to pay more for compulsory mortgage indemnity insurance in the next few months because of the rise in repossessions. Some will face rises of more than 30 per cent. Others will not be able to borrow more than 75 per cent of the property's value because insurers are starting to refuse indemnity cover to lenders with lax lending criteria and a high level of repossessions.

Insurance companies are facing huge losses on mortgage indemnity business because of a dramatic increase in claims from lenders repossessing properties and selling them for less than the value of the loan. Although the insurance covers the lender if this happens, the borrower has to pay a single one-off premium when the mortgage is taken out.

Borrowers approaching smaller building societies are likely to find mortgages of more than 75 per cent most difficult to get and more expensive. Some smaller societies failed to control their lending and have a high level of arrears. Low-start and 100 per cent loans may not be available at all.

Royal Insurance, which has a 20 per cent share of the mortgage indemnity market, announced half-yearly claims of £45 million on mortgage indemnity insurance this week, compared with £3

million in the first half of 1990. It said premiums would have to rise by 25 per cent across the board this autumn. At the moment borrowers whose lenders have poor arrears records will not have to pay more, although this is a possibility in future.

General Accident this week reported a half-yearly loss of £40 million on mortgage indemnity insurance and creditor insurance combined, although it did not give a separate figure for mortgage indemnity losses.

Barry Holder, GA's general manager, would not quantify the amount of premium rise but said it would be a "sizeable increase". He added: "If we felt the lender was not exercising proper control over its lending we would not offer cover at all. This is the first time we have had to do this."

General Accident is talking to lenders and is likely to start charging higher premiums in the near future. Legal & General is also holding discussions. Last year the company had gross mortgage indemnity premiums of £30 million. At the time of the full-year results indemnity business was breaking even, but it has since seen "a sharp escalation in claims".

Rod Young, director for personal insurance, said: "If we are to continue to write this sort of business, rates will have to increase quite substantially." Legal &

General is reluctant to put a figure to its losses before the half-yearly results come out on September 12, but Mr Young suggested that some lenders with poor arrears records will have to charge borrowers 30 per cent more. Some lenders could be refused cover altogether for certain kinds of riskier loans, such as non-status mortgages or low-start loans.

The company is also considering taking legal action against a number of homebuyers who have walked away from their property when its value fell below the level of the mortgage, despite being able to afford repayments.

Mr Young said: "There are a number of cases which we have solicitors looking at at the moment. We have a responsibility to discourage people from walking away from their loans."

Other insurers, including Sun Alliance and Eagle Star are cagey about revealing their losses because they are set to announce their half-yearly figures in the first weeks of September.

Michael Heath, Eagle Star's marketing director, said, however, that an increase in rates for most people was inevitable and that some lenders would be refused cover. "Simply put, this problem could be dealt with by an increase in rates. But the whole practice of lending needs to be improved if this insurance is to continue to exist." Eagle Star provides indemnity cover for most of the bigger lenders.

Revenue suggests less taxing tax for self-employed

By Sara McConnell

THE self-employed could find their tax returns easier and less time-consuming to calculate if proposals outlined this week by the Inland Revenue are adopted.

The publication of the Revenue's consultative paper follows the Chancellor's announcement in the last Budget that simplifying the tax rules for the self-employed would be part of the government's tax reform programme. It comes as the Revenue promises, as part of its new taxpayer's charter, generally to provide clear leaflets and forms and to help get people's tax affairs right.

At the moment, the calculation of a self-employed person's tax liability is made on the previous year's profits, on the grounds that taxpayers will not be able to calculate their profits until accounts are drawn up and the return sent in. The taxman makes an initial assessment, which starts a complicated process of correspondence, appeals against assessments considered too high, and amended assessments.

The report says: "It will always be more difficult to identify and calculate income from self-employment than income from employment, pensions and investments. But much of the added complexity comes from the way in which the present system works. This produces a large volume of correspondence, notices and demands between the self-employed taxpayer and the Revenue."

"Much of this uses provisional figures which have to be amended later. Many of the notices require immediate attention by the taxpayer. This all creates numerous opportunities for mistakes and misunderstandings, both by

taxpayers and the Revenue." The Inland Revenue is proposing two alternative systems for collecting tax from the self-employed, both of which it says should be simpler. One system, the current year system, would assess self-employed people's tax liability on the profits for accounts ending in the current tax year. As with the present system, they will be able to make up their accounts to any date they choose.

Half the tax owed for the year would be paid on January 1 in the same tax year and the other half on July 1 in the following tax year. The balance would be due on January 1 of the following tax year.

Under this system there would no longer be a whole set of special rules for the first and final years of self-employment because the profit for each year will be taxed in the current year with no backtracking to previous years for an assessment.

Another option would be to base tax assessments on business accounting periods throughout the year and so spread tax calculations and payments more evenly. People would pay in instalments of half the final liability for the previous accounting period three months before, with the other half falling due three months after the end of the current accounting period.

Tax on other sources of income, such as investments and dividends, could also be brought into the new system and the total bill paid as one.

The Revenue is hoping that a simpler system will cut down on complicated correspondence and allow most self-employed people to work out their own tax liability rather than having it calculated for them. They should only need to deal with the Revenue twice a

year when they send in payment, returns and accounts.

David Shaw, leader of the Inland Revenue's reporting team, said there could be a slight increase in the number of tax returns audited if most self-employed people worked out their own tax. People wanting the Revenue to calculate their liability would have to send in their returns and accounts earlier.

Under the new taxpayer's charter, announced this week by Francis Maude, the financial secretary, the Revenue has promised simplifications in other areas. The idea of a taxpayer's charter was outlined in the government's white paper on the citizen's charter.

The application form for tax relief on mortgage interest is the first to be redesigned to make it easier to understand. Taxpayers should expect Revenue staff to be fair, efficient, helpful and accountable in settling tax affairs impartially, getting tax right, helping people to understand rights and obligations and giving information and assistance. Private affairs will be kept confidential and costs kept to a minimum.

In return, taxpayers are expected to give honest and accurate information and pay their tax on time. If they are not satisfied with their treatment, taxpayers will be told how to complain. They have the right to complain to an independent tribunal or ask their MP to refer the complaint to the parliamentary ombudsman.

As part of efforts to make Revenue staff more accountable, comments on the self-employed tax proposals can be sent, by December 31, to: Jayne Banner, Inland Revenue, Schedule D Review, Room 3, New Wing, Somerset House, London WC2R 2LB.



Costly campaign: Judy Atchison, marketing director at the Leeds, which is spending £6 million on advertising

Leeds to take stress out of buying

THE Leeds Permanent Building Society is attempting to take the stress out of homebuying by offering its borrowers the services of a home arranger. Available in every branch in England and Wales, they will co-ordinate the work of estate agents, solicitors and surveyors for borrowers (Sara McConnell writes).

A survey of 1,217 homebuyers commissioned by the society showed that 67 per cent rated the experience of buying a home either very, or quite stressful. Of these people, 81 per cent said the process took too long and 74 per cent said there was too much jargon involved in the homebuying process.

They also said there was too much paperwork, the right people were never there and housebuyers were not kept in touch with what was happening.

The home arrangers, part of a free service to borrowers, have been installed in branches as a result of the survey. They will advise on mortgages and liaise with solicitors and surveyors on the buyer's behalf. They will also arrange for electricity and gas meters to be read and for post to be redirected.

Homebuyers will receive weekly progress reports about their transactions, which home arrangers will try and speed up if a solicitor or surveyor is taking too long.

Chris Chadwick, the Leeds' commercial director, said home arrangers would be trained to sell both endowment and repayment loans. The application fee is £300. A rate of 9.75 per cent for six months after completion is available from Prudential Mortgage Company, the mortgage arm of the Prudential.

The rate for new mortgages represents a 2.24 per cent discount off a variable mortgage rate of 11.99 per cent, while the discount on remortgages represents 2.75 per cent off the variable rate of 12.5 per cent.

A borrower taking out a £40,000 loan and qualifying for tax relief on the first £30,000 will save £59.58 a month for the first six months. This is the Leeds' most expensive campaign to date.

Older people offered guidance on finance

A GUIDE to taxation and investment for older people has been published by Age Concern. *Your Taxes and Savings* is intended to be used by people of all income levels. Topics covered range from pension planning and lump sum investment, to income support and housing and community charge benefits.

The section on taxation also gives information about how tax bills are calculated, what tax allowances are available and how to claim a rebate.

The guide discusses recent changes in legislation, including independent taxation for

married couples and interest-free savings for non-taxpayers. A book aimed at a more general readership, *The 91/92 Money, Pensions and Tax Guide*, covers buying a house, borrowing money, school fees and family protection.

Your Taxes & Savings 1991-2 costs £3.95 from large branches of WH Smith, or from Age Concern England, 1268 London Road, London SW16. *The 91/92 Money, Pensions and Tax Guide* costs £4.95 and is published by the Taxation Advice Bureau, 54/56 Sun Street, Waltham Abbey, Essex EN9 1EJ.

NatWest offers home loan fixed at 10.95%

NATIONAL Westminster bank is offering fixed-rate mortgages at 10.95 per cent (an annual percentage rate of 12.5 per cent) for two years until October 31, 1993.

The deal is available on all new mortgages, including remortgages and existing customers changing properties, but customers have to link the mortgage to an endowment or pension contract.

Existing contracts can be used but new ones will have to be bought through NatWest Insurance Services, the bank's insurance broking arm. There is no redemption charge as long as a customer moving house keeps the fixed rate, otherwise the bank will charge a penalty fee of two months' interest. The minimum mortgage is £15,000 and there is an arrangement fee of £195.

The Bristol & West Building Society has also launched a fixed-rate mortgage of 10.95 per cent (APR 12.3 per cent),

but the rate is fixed for five years for loans in excess of £40,000. Like the NatWest, Bristol & West changes no penalty for early redemption if the borrower moves house and keeps the mortgage. Both new and existing customers can take up the offer, which applies to pension, endowment and repayment loans. The application fee is £300.

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BRIEFINGS

CUSTOMERS who want a fixed mortgage deal with no application fee and no redemption fee are being offered a guaranteed savings mortgage from Chase de Vere Home Loans, the mortgage broker. The broker guarantees a discount of 2 per cent off normal building society rates until January 1993. This means customers will be paying 9.95 per cent at the moment, but less if interest rates fall again. The minimum loan is £70,000 and the offer is not available for remortgages.

A personal equity plan (Pep) fully invested in an investment trust is to be launched by M & G on September 20. Those who do not have an existing 1991-2

Pep with another manager will be able to put their whole annual allowance into the M & G income investment trust, sponsored by Warburgs. It will be a split-level trust, and capital, income and zero dividend preference shares will be combined in packaged units. The estimated starting yield is 6 per cent.

From October 1, Yorkshire Bank is to reduce the monthly interest rate on its Visa card from 2.15 per cent to 1.95 per cent, an annual percentage rate of 26 per cent for purchases and 26.6 per cent for cash advances. But interest will be charged from the date transactions reach the account rather than from the statement date if the balance is not

paid off in full. The bank does not charge an annual fee.

Two free guides out this week aim to explain the complexities of pensions and investments. A leaflet called *How to Enforce Your Pension Rights* is available from Ellison Westhrop, the pensions law firm. It outlines the complaints procedure for those not happy with personal, state or company pensions and gives a list of addresses, including that of the newly established pensions ombudsman, the occupational pensions board and the parliamentary commissioner.

The second guide, from Save & Prosper, is called *Is Investment Really Worth It?* It aims to help people assess the reasons for investing in the stock market and the different ways money can be put to work by investing in stocks.

Endsleigh Insurance, the specialist student insurer, paid out more than £1 million in burglary claims over the past 12 months, twice as much as last year. Some students are now being burgled every term, even in areas previously considered relatively theft-free, the insurer says. Landlords are failing to provide even minimum security in low-cost accommodation. Endsleigh charges from £27 a year for a basic sum insured of £2,500. College property on loan is insured up to £250 and damage to public service equipment to the value of £150.

Money is covered up to £50 and credit cards up to £500.

Motorists buying a used car should check the vehicle carefully for signs of tampering with the bodywork or the mileage clock to make it look younger, the TSB cautions in its new guide, *Tips for Better Buying*. The guide offers a checklist for used car buyers that advises them to watch out for signs of rust or cracks in the bodywork or the engine bay and check for signs of rust in panel joints and on the boot. Buyers should be wary of cars that emit blue smoke when the engine is revved or signs of worn shock absorbers if the car bounces more than once when weight is put on it.

The guide also looks at the best way to buy kitchen, domestic appliances, sound systems and personal computers. It includes a summary of consumers' rights under the Sale of Goods Act.

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Widow 'browbeaten' by bank adviser

The hidden cost of best advice

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

INDEPENDENT financial advisers will no longer be obliged to give their clients best advice but will merely have to prove that they offered good advice, if the Securities and Investments Board (SIB) has its way. There will still be no requirement for advisers to tell clients at the time of sale what commission they earn when a customer is sold a policy or savings plan.

But cases detailed to Weekend Money suggest that disclosure of commission is vital to improve the standards of financial service given.

A widow, aged 59, referred to a financial adviser in her bank when she paid in a £92,000 cheque from her husband's life insurance, was told she should put £90,000 into an annuity.

In addition, the salesman suggested that income from the annuity should be used to pay for an endowment policy to restore the £90,000 to her estate when she died, or after ten years.

The woman says she had stressed throughout the interview with the area investment adviser at her branch of National Westminster Bank that she wanted to retain control of her money so that she had access if she needed cash for the upkeep of her home or other expenditure.

The scheme suggested would have left her with £2,000, much of which would have been swallowed up by debts her husband had left, she said.

The bank said she had £100,000 invested elsewhere, which she could have been cashed in. She countered that she knew how much she had available and she wanted to have access to the £92,000.

Another widow was advised to put the £30,000 she received from her husband's pension into an insurance bond. This, she was incorrectly told, could not fall in value.

In the first case the bank could have earned £4,500 in commission, and in the second case the commission was likely to have been £1,500.

The first widow has, for the time being, invested in government securities through the Post Office register. This pays the interest gross, although it has to be declared for tax later. She now wants to warn other people in her position to be careful.

Of investor protection she says: "The system is working extremely well for the banks



and insurance companies. If the widows it is not working for. It bugs me that the bank should collect that sum of money for subjecting a woman like me to being browbeaten."

Once an annuity is bought there is no access to the money. Sold by insurance companies, they usually guarantee an income for the rest of the holder's life. In this case it was to be a ten-year annuity, and because of that the income rate was higher than one taken out for life.

When the widow queried how the proposal would give her full control of the money, she was told that if she kept up the endowment for ten years she would be able to withdraw money.

NatWest said that there was an in-built mechanism to prevent someone arriving in a branch with a cheque and then walking out with a policy.

In this case, the fact-finder had not included the widow's marital status or her income. The recommendation was therefore made with the advice that she should seek further guidance, the bank said. The concept of tying up money varied from person to person. Some people might not consider ten years as tying up their money, NatWest added.

The second widow was surprised to receive such a large lump sum on her husband's death, and was totally at a loss as to how to invest it safely. An independent financial adviser recommended by her son visited her at her home and suggested that she should invest in a General Accident with-profits bond. This guarantees to pay 3 per cent a year and, according to the company, expects to pay 10 per cent but does not guarantee to do so.

Even the 3 per cent guarantee can be overridden in exceptional markets where a lot of people are cashing in policies.

Jean Eaglesham, senior researcher at the Consumers' Association, said investors should be wary if they were advised to put all their money into one product.

"It is very difficult to second guess when bad advice is given whether it is incompetence or deliberate because of the financial incentive of the commission. There needs to be much better monitoring and enforcement. The consequences of bad advice can be as harmful as fraud," she said.

The association would like to see better monitoring of the people selling investments, to check whether there is a bias towards high commission products. Ms Eaglesham said: "There must be a suspicion of guilt if there is a bias towards high commission products."

This week the association has sent comments to SIB on its proposals to change the rules on advice, in which it states: "We consider best advice to be an important element of the level of protection that should be afforded to investors - indeed, we cannot see how allowing advisers to recommend a 'good' product if they are (or should be) aware of a better product that they could sell instead..."

NatWest Insurance Services said: "Most people do not know what they want. Advisers are trained to listen to people and to fully understand the products."

The need to protect a lump sum against inflation was paramount. "The risk from inflation is greater than from the movement in share prices. The requirement for income often forces investment decisions upon people."

Whitechurch Securities, a Bristol-based broker, usually recommends that investors split lump sums three ways.

Kean Seager, managing director, said: "A third should be in cash in a building society or bank high-interest account,

BT investors must first select their share shop

INVESTORS planning to buy shares in the sale of the government's remaining stake in BT will be asked to choose a share shop to apply through before details of its commission rates are known. But they will be able to change their minds once the fees are published (Lindsay Cook writes).

Francis Maude, the financial secretary to the Treasury, announced this week that applicants for the shares, which are expected to be sold at a discount of about 5 per cent to the market value, will be given greater preference in allocation if they buy through one of eight share shops chosen by the government. These are Abbey National, Barclays, Bank of Scotland, Lloyds, Midland, NatWest, the Norwich & Peterborough Building Society and Sharelink.

Applicants using the share shops will also be given two vouchers allowing them to buy shares at a maximum commission of £15 for small deals, and two to sell at the same rate. The maximum commission rate will be 1.5 per cent. It will be up to the shops to decide how many different shares these can be used to buy and sell.

The sale will begin during October when 20 million households will receive letters inviting them to register their interest with the Share Information Office and to indicate their preferred share shop.

At that stage there will be no details of the costs of the cheap deals. These will be supplied with the interim certificates, along with the four vouchers that can be used to sell or buy through any of the eight share shops.

The government is keen that



Cheap deals: Larner

minimum commission was £8, and for the last two government sales it has been £9 for people who applied through the society. Those who did not paid from £14.

NatWest also offered a postal dealing service with a minimum commission of £9. The bank's Touchscreen service normally costs a minimum of £25 but until the end of September it is offering a reduced minimum of £17 and will allow families to batch up to five certificates in privatised companies subject to an extra £3 for the second and subsequent certificates. With privatised companies at the time of flotation, NatWest offers a cheque at the point of sale. With other companies it gives investors a contract note straightaway.

Sharelink, which is 64 per cent owned by BT, offered a postal service with a minimum commission of £12.50 per company for the Scottish power companies. Barclays charged from £12.50 and Midland charged from £15 until July 31 and now charges £20. Bank of Scotland, Lloyds and Abbey National did not offer special dealing rates.

The Norwich & Peterborough is the smallest of the brokers selected, but Martin Armstrong, group chief executive, is confident that the society can cope with the volume of business the BT sale will create.

The society, which has 67 branches, handled 25,000 applications for the electricity distribution companies. It will also offer a postal service.

"We want to show how easy it is to buy and sell shares in the high street," said Mr Armstrong.

Figures for reduction in yield fail to end confusion over charges

By HELEN PRIDHAM

MANY investors still feel confused about insurance companies' charges. Though product literature must now include a "reduction in yield" figure to show the effect of charges on growth, few people understand its significance and it still does not cover all the possible deductions.

Companies generally levy various charges that provide the return they need to cover their costs. With unit-linked and unitised with-profits contracts, where charges have to be split out, companies vie to make their fees sound as inoffensive as possible.

Many of these costs are incurred when the policy is first sold. Commission is usually seen as the greater evil, but there are also all the company's administrative expenses to pay for.

Once a policy is on the books there are on-going costs such as premium collection and investment management to be recovered.

On many personal pension contracts, for example, companies still invest the first year or two of policyholders' premiums in "capital" or "initial" investment units. These carry a much higher than usual management charge of, say, 6 per cent per annum.

Because of the limited period of allocation, however, the cost does not sound too bad. In fact, over the term of the contract it normally means these units are worth much less in real terms than they were initially. Moreover, if the policyholder takes early retirement a hefty penalty is usually levied from these units.

Friendly societies' charges are similarly confusing. Even a straightforward savings contract may have as many as four or five different charges. Family Assurance's tax-exempt friendly society plan, for example, lists five expense deductions including a front-end charge of 65 per cent, fund management charges of 5 per cent initial and 0.75 per cent annually, the costs of life cover, and a fee of 45p a month if premiums are paid monthly.

The effect of these charges on the investment return must now be shown in the form of a reduction in yield. At Family Assurance, the reduction in investment return would be 4.49 per cent for a man of 35 taking out a ten-year contract.

These reductions in yield must be calculated on a basis laid down by Lantto, the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation, assuming a 8.5 per cent growth rate. So Family Assurance's 4.49 per cent figure means that the policyholder's share of that investment growth would be 4.01 per cent - less than half.

Charges on early surrender do not have to be included in the calculation, but charges are likely to be much higher for those cashing in a policy early.

While Family Assurance's reduction in yield may seem high, the figure quoted by another friendly society, the Tunbridge Wells Equitable, for its with-profits tax-exempt plan is even higher. Its charges would result in a hefty 6 per cent reduction in yield.

By contrast, the average for ordinary ten-year with-profits endowments is only 2.8 per cent, according to figures col-

lected by R. Watson & Sons, the actuary, from the 1990 with-profits guides of 38 insurance companies.

Mike Wadsworth, Watson's life assurance specialist, explains, however, that insurance companies' reductions in yield on their life insurance business are lower, partly because of their favourable tax position in the past.

"Insurance companies were able to set off all their expenses against tax as soon as they were incurred," he said.

Most investors remain unaware of the implications of reductions in yield.

John Turton, marketing manager of Provident Life, which offers commission-free insurance products to fee-based advisers, says: "Our evidence suggests that many investors are unaware that a seemingly modest reduction in yield actually equates to a significant reduction in final benefit."

As an alternative, the company has recently published tables that convert reductions in yield to reductions in funds. It shows that a 2 per cent annual reduction in yield on a 25-year personal pension where the policyholder is paying an annual premium of £1,000, would reduce the final pension fund at retirement by 26.5 per cent.

Lantto is now suggesting that there should be cash disclosure of life office charges and expenses, which would be more meaningful for investors than showing expenses as a reduction in yield.

At the same time, investors should not lose sight of a company's investment performance.

Peter Gray, general manager of the Tunbridge Wells Equitable, does not dispute that his charges look high but he says: "Policyholders should not just look at expenses, they should also look at what they are getting for their money. Our past performance record shows that we can give value for money."

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£10,000 and over	11.25% gross (8.44% net)	10.70% gross (8.03% net)

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1001			Price	Green	Yld	
1002	High Low Company	Bu	Chg	Chg %	P-E	
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1010	25	25	-	-	-	-
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1012	25	25	-	-	-	-
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32	Image Packaging
81	Dolphin Packaging
151	Ferguson Inc.

81	Goodman	31	20	11.1	8.7	7.7
82	Goodman	31	20	11.1	8.7	7.7
83	Goodman	31	20	11.1	8.7	7.7
84	Goodman	31	20	11.1	8.7	7.7
85	Goodman	31	20	11.1	8.7	7.7
86	Goodman	31	20	11.1	8.7	7.7
87	Goodman	31	20	11.1	8.7	7.7
88	Goodman	31	20	11.1	8.7	7.7
89	Goodman	31	20	11.1	8.7	7.7
90	Goodman	31	20	11.1	8.7	7.7
91	Goodman	31	20	11.1	8.7	7.7
92	Goodman	31	20	11.1	8.7	7.7
93	Goodman	31	20	11.1	8.7	7.7
94	Goodman	31	20	11.1	8.7	7.7
95	Goodman	31	20	11.1	8.7	7.7
96	Goodman	31	20	11.1	8.7	7.7
97	Goodman	31	20	11.1	8.7	7.7
98	Goodman	31	20	11.1	8.7	7.7
99	Goodman	31	20	11.1	8.7	7.7
100	Goodman	31	20	11.1	8.7	7.7

100 78 Alford, Len
80 80 Percudani

[illegible]

40	31	Five Oaks
75	50	Fletcher Hwy
75	70	Emerson

[illegible]

22 Mountleigh
B15 Mountlepper
B16 Mountlepper

Rank	Team	Wins	Losses	Winning %	Points per game
1	Alabama	10	0	1.000	24.0
2	Arkansas	9	1	.900	23.0
3	Florida	8	2	.800	22.0
4	Georgia	7	3	.700	21.0
5	North Carolina	6	4	.600	20.0
6	South Carolina	5	5	.500	19.0
7	Tennessee	4	6	.400	18.0
8	Mississippi	3	7	.300	17.0
9	Alabama State	2	8	.200	16.0
10	Georgia Tech	1	9	.100	15.0
11	Florida State	0	10	.000	14.0
12	Georgia State	0	10	.000	13.0
13	South Carolina State	0	10	.000	12.0
14	Alabama A&M	0	10	.000	11.0
15	Alabama State	0	10	.000	10.0
16	Alabama State	0	10	.000	9.0
17	Alabama State	0	10	.000	8.0
18	Alabama State	0	10	.000	7.0
19	Alabama State	0	10	.000	6.0
20	Alabama State	0	10	.000	5.0
21	Alabama State	0	10	.000	4.0
22	Alabama State	0	10	.000	3.0
23	Alabama State	0	10	.000	2.0
24	Alabama State	0	10	.000	1.0
25	Alabama State	0	10	.000	0.0

72 **Vici Watson**

17 Peabody	49	50	-1	3.2	8.6	13.0
185 Leather Hosiery	252	252	0	18.2	5.4	7.2
190 Leather Hosiery	252	252	0	18.2	5.4	7.2
195 Strong & Farner	252	252	0	18.2	5.4	7.2
200 Style	252	252	0	18.2	5.4	7.2

9 1st Acct	14	3	-1	4.7	4.1	4.7
273 Acct	262	262	0	18.1	4.1	12.1
60 Bedding (A)	60	72	12	8.1	9.0	9.0
60 Bedding (B)	127	127	0	11.3	8.1	10.2
85 By Monitor	102	102	0	2.0	11.9	11.4
71 Off Co	262	262	0	18.1	4.1	12.1
32 Countable Textiles	262	262	0	18.1	4.1	12.1
128 Countable	175	175	0	12.0	8.6	11.8
175 The Diamond	102	102	0	1.3	3.2	3.2
35 Down	53	53	0	2.7	1.0	1.0
35 Down (Lites)	53	53	0	2.7	1.0	1.0

64	Picking	Plum
70	Jarano	(S)
71	Leaves	

49	Parade	71	52	75	-	0.1	2.3	6.7
57	Little J.D.	71	52	75	-	1.4	2.4	6.6
59	Laurel	81	91	95	-	3.8	2.5	2.5
63	Rembrandt	81	91	95	-	4.6	7.3	13.2
19	SEET	70	70	70	-	-	-	-
30	Star	70	70	70	-	11	11.2	16.4
32	Star	70	70	70	-	3.3	7.7	10.5
33	Star	70	70	70	-	-	-	-
180	Thompson	280	270	270	-	15.3	5.7	15.7
5	West Trestle	6	7th	-	-	-	-	-
140	Yonkers	102	170	-	-	12.9	7.8	8.8

TOBACCOS								
2	520 Bat	740	744	5	42.5	5.7	26.4	
1	525 Rembrandt	104	110	11	2.7	2.2	12.8	

TRANSPORT								
2	167 Passenger	320	325	-7	8.7	8.8	18.3	

122 In Army
123 Carlson 08

72	James Lamm	100	107	7.3	8.5	8.1
73	Sam	100	107	7.3	8.5	8.1
74	James Lamm	100	107	7.3	8.5	8.1
75	Sam	100	107	7.3	8.5	8.1
76	Sam	100	107	7.3	8.5	8.1
77	Sam	100	107	7.3	8.5	8.1
78	Sam	100	107	7.3	8.5	8.1
79	Sam	100	107	7.3	8.5	8.1
80	Sam	100	107	7.3	8.5	8.1
81	Sam	100	107	7.3	8.5	8.1
82	Sam	100	107	7.3	8.5	8.1
83	Sam	100	107	7.3	8.5	8.1
84	Sam	100	107	7.3	8.5	8.1
85	Sam	100	107	7.3	8.5	8.1
86	Sam	100	107	7.3	8.5	8.1
87	Sam	100	107	7.3	8.5	8.1
88	Sam	100	107	7.3	8.5	8.1
89	Sam	100	107	7.3	8.5	8.1
90	Sam	100	107	7.3	8.5	8.1
91	Sam	100	107	7.3	8.5	8.1
92	Sam	100	107	7.3	8.5	8.1
93	Sam	100	107	7.3	8.5	8.1
94	Sam	100	107	7.3	8.5	8.1
95	Sam	100	107	7.3	8.5	8.1
96	Sam	100	107	7.3	8.5	8.1
97	Sam	100	107	7.3	8.5	8.1
98	Sam	100	107	7.3	8.5	8.1
99	Sam	100	107	7.3	8.5	8.1
100	Sam	100	107	7.3	8.5	8.1

201 August 1998
250 Northampton
261 North West

251 North West	172	235.0	+1	26.6	8.4	5.9
252 Northwest	309	349.0	+2	22.4	5.8	3.3
253 Northwest Trans	330	337.0	-2	22.3	7.1	6.5
254 Northwest	337	377.0	+2	23.8	8.3	5.8
255 Northwest	358	389.0	+1	26.7	7.5	5.4
256 Northwest	370	373.0	-2	22.6	7.3	6.3
257 Northwest	370	373.0	-2	22.6	7.3	6.3
258 Northwest	381	382.0	+1	23.8	8.2	7.3
259 Northwest	389	392.0	+2	23.8	8.0	8.7
260 Northwest	391	392.0	+1	23.8	8.2	7.3

● Ex dividend ● Ex all b Forecast dividend ● Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment k Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings ● Ex other r Ex rights ● Ex scrip or share only t Tax-free No dividend date

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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Taiwan upholds sporting ideals against hostility

Amateurs thrive on island of business acumen

From DAVID MILLER IN HONG KONG

AT A recent sports-for-all conference in Seoul, Nancy Chao, the minister for sport for Taiwan, addressing a government representative from the neighbouring People's Republic of China, an audience of 100 educationists, was surprised to hear her colleague challenge her views on the grounds that, strictly speaking, she did not exist, and therefore her opinions were invalid.

Exist Dr Chao most certainly does. A former ballerina and gymnast, she is responsible for a department of physical education and sport that spans more than 20 million population than does either Britain or mainland China. The People's Republic, however, occasionally finds its ideology leading it into positions of laughable hypocrisy. Therein lies the greatest limit to its development. The People's Republic speaker in Seoul subsequently apologised, embarrassed by her duplicity.

After the recent severe flooding in southern China, Taiwan and Hong Kong donated considerable relief funds, Taiwan a whopping \$15 million. Yet at last year's congress of the Olympic Council of Asia before the Asian Games in Peking, representatives of the Chinese National Olympic Committee solemnly condemned the bid by the Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee, its compromise title within the IOC in order to sustain mutual membership with big brother — on the grounds that the People's Republic team could not compete in 1998 in the land of Chiang Kai-shek. Bangkok won the bid.

The People's Republic gov-

ernment continues to try to pretend that the island is not there. When Taiwan has the world's second largest foreign reserve, \$76 billion, and is the thirteenth largest trading country in the world, it is a bit absurd. No People's Republic team has competed in Taiwan, yet more than 20 Taiwan teams have been to the mainland since their gymnasts broke the ice in 1989.

That was the work of three men. When Ching-Kuo Wu was elected as replacement for the retiring Henry Hsu as Taiwan IOC member at the Calgary Winter Games in 1988, Juan Antonio Samaranch called him to a private meeting, together with He Zhenliang, the People's Republic member. Get your act together for the benefit of youth, Samaranch said. At a personal level, they did.

Month in, month out, mainland and island freely communicate by phone and fax. The moment it looks as though Taiwan might receive some further formal international recognition — in the shape of hosting a big event — the government throws up an extension of the Great Wall. Sooner or later the People's Republic may realise that what they are keeping out is themselves, and the evidence might just take the shape of rejection of their Olympic bid for 2000.

It is strange how the ideological gulf can continue to separate the two Chinese republics and the two Koreas, when the respective communist regimes urgently need access to the commercial expertise of their blood relations. It is the more peculiar in the case of the Chinese, given their philosophy over five

millennia. Yet to the Chinese, with their unique patience, 40 years of separation is no more than a blink in the history of dynasties. Wu, an architect who helped develop Milton Keynes and is involved in Taiwan's \$300 billion infrastructure development over the next six years, says placidly: "We are willing to wait 100 years for reunion, maybe 200. It will happen."

Last night I was invited to another sort of reunion: a dinner for nine of the Taipei Olympic Committee which fought to save the committee when it was threatened with removal from the IOC at the end of the Seventies. In a rare way, the Taiwanese come closer to de Coubertin's conception of sport than any contemporary nation taking part in the Olympic Games.

Their government spends 15 per cent of its annual budget on education, and six per cent of that on sport; yet this is not producing international medals. The money goes primarily on facilities and grass-roots development rather than elite coaching.

The Confucian conception of fitness of the body is to fulfill the completion of the person. Professor Hsu Din, a former diplomat and veteran adviser to their Olympic committee, says: "We are not looking in sport for the creation of stars. Sport has lost its way and its meaning. It is now merely manipulated by governments. What is important is education."

By his measurement, the United States and the People's Republic are about equally at fault. Taiwan are as distressed by their tally of only three Olympic medals in 30 years as anybody missing breakfast.

Hannon continues impressive run with Hungerford Stakes victory at Newbury



Driving finish: Only Yours, left, mastering her rivals in the Forte Hungerford Stakes at Newbury yesterday

Hern complains after Claret win Kergorlay attracts strong raid

By RICHARD EVANS

MAJOR Dick Hern yesterday joined forces with Henry Cecil in decriing the lack of racing opportunities for horses just below top class.

His comments came after watching Claret carry 9st 10lb to victory in the Ladbrokes Recade Handicap at Newbury yesterday. Asked where the same three-year-old would run next, he commented: "You tell me. Henry Cecil is quite right. There are not enough races for horses just below top class."

"You get murdered with weight in handicaps and you are always there to be shot at. There should be more condition races or limited handicaps for horses like this one. I am sure the public would like that."

"I could run Claret pretty often if there was top weight of 9st 7lb and bottom weight of 8st 7lb. They would make very good races. There is nothing for horses like this one and it doesn't encourage owners to keep four-year-olds in training."

Claret's victory was achieved, interestingly enough, at the expense of Fiquant, owned by the Queen, and confirmed the well-

being of Hern's string. "Our horses have not been right but they have struck a bit of form now. We had the virus. Even the highest in the land can get it. It is no respecter of persons. It is like a cold, there is nothing you can do about it except wait," Hern added.

Richard Hannon must have forgotten what it is like to wait for a winner. Only Yours provided the East English trainer with his sixth winner this week and the fourteenth this month to take his tally for the season to a best-ever 78.

When horses are running well it is a lovely feeling. It is a real thrill. You could run the yard cat when things are going well and it would win," he joked.

As so often happens when a trainer is in tip-top form, his horses often find luck in running. Only Yours managed to find all kinds of trouble in the Forte Hungerford Stakes before Michael Roberts performed a Houdini-style escape.

Trapped behind a wall of horses with little more than a flurion to go, the South African jockey had to switch and wait for a gap to appear. When it did,

Only Yours rocketed through to win comfortably in the end by three-quarters of a length.

By contrast, Rami, the 2-1 favourite, had no luck in running, being trapped on the rails just when Willie Carson was making his run, and finished third.

With Hannon in such sparkling form, punters would be wise to pay careful attention to his runners at York next week. He is bullish about the chances of River Falls in the Gimcrack Stakes and reported that First Victory worked really well yesterday morning in preparation for the Ebor Handicap.

Peter Chapple-Hyam's marvellous first season continued yesterday when Rodrigo De Triano again displayed splendid acceleration in the final furlongs to win a hotly-contested Washington Stakes at Doncaster.

The El Gran Senor colt is entered in the Solario Stakes at Sandown on August 30, when he could meet Charlie Nelson's unbeaten Arctic Tracker, and the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster on September 15.

"He is a May fowl and I would not want to give him too much more racing this year. He'll probably have one more race before he is put away. I think he will be even better next season."

El Gran Senor doesn't get many in foal, but I have got two and they are both good."

Be a Honey showed what a game filly she is to win the Newbury Stakes and is likely to be aimed for the Park Hill Stakes at Doncaster. The race almost ended in disaster for Walter Swinburn, recently returned to riding after injury, when The Glasha failed to negotiate the bend into the straight and almost put the jockey over the far rail.

The building work at Newbury is progressing quickly and the shell of the new grandstand is already in place. Whether Lord Carnarvon, chairman of the course, has considered having a creche installed is questionable, but that might prevent a repeat of what happened yesterday, inside the parade ring as horses walked round before the Hungerford Stakes, a woman was breast-feeding her child. The tragedy and recriminations that would have occurred if a horse had lashed out do not bear thinking about.

THE Goodwood Cup winner Further Flight (Michael Hills) heads a strong British challenge for today's Prix Kergorlay (1m 7f) at Deauville (O French Racing Correspondent writes).

The £25,458 event has developed into a clash between some of the best stayers on both sides of the channel.

Barry Hills's five-year-old is joined by Great Marquis (Paul Biddery), Duke Of Paducah (Ray Cochrane), Tringol (William Mould) and Mountain Kingdon (Steve Caubert), while the home defence includes Jonathan Pease's Turgeon (Cash Amussen) and Andre Fabre's Luyens (Thierry Jarnet).

Only British representative tomorrow is Richard Hannon's Knight Of Mercy (Bruce Raymond) in the six-furlong Prix de Meudon when the feature event is group one Prix Morny for two-year-olds.

However, despite prize-money of over £100,000, it has only attracted four runners with the unbeaten Arazi a strong favourite.

ROWING

Coxless pair lead medal challenge

By MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

NOT since 1948 has Britain won two gold medals at an Olympic Games or world championships, but the six-oar British men's heavyweight squad, the strongest assembled in this country, will be disappointed if two gold medals are not won in the world championship finals taking place tomorrow week after seven days of competition in Vienna.

The coxless pair of Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent lead the challenge with an unbeaten year behind them. Redgrave, with four gold medals at this level already to his credit, and admitting to a new motivation under the new coach, Jurgen Grottel, said: "We have got to do something seriously wrong to lose it."

Pinsent is equally confident: "I shall be disappointed if I do not return with a gold medal around my neck," he said. A more cautious Grottel, however, has warned that the leading Austrians, Sinziger and Bauer, winners at Henley in 1990, will have home advantage.

The British coxed four has shared the 1991 limelight with Germany, the international scene between the two crews standing at 3-2 in favour of Britain as the championships begin.

The British crew, stroked by Redgrave's former partner, Simon Berrisford, had benefited from altitude training since it produced a notable win over the Germans in Lucerne.

The bow pair, Peter Mulkerrius and Nick Buritt, have been in international action since 1986 and have the gold medal record of six fourth places in Olympics and world championships to their credit while Terry Dillon, at three, has just one bronze medal to show for six appearances in both since 1985.

"The gold will depend on which crew gets it right on the day," Dillon said, something which could be affected by steersman, Adrian Ellison, an experienced Olympic gold medal-winner. Both the eight and the coxless four have been helped by personnel switches since Lucerne and Grottel said: "A chance for a medal" for the bigger boat.

Medals for the ten-oar women's and lightweight squads, are harder to foresee. The women's lightweight coxed four should make the final but, after their stroke, Kate Brownlow, noted after winning in Lucerne, the appearance of the United States, China, and Australia will make medal winning difficult.

TENNIS

Patience pays off for Durie

From BARRY WOOD IN LOS ANGELES

JO DURIE followed up her win over Zina Garrison on Thursday by defeating Gretchen Magers 6-3, 6-4 to reach the quarter-finals of the Virginia Slims of Los Angeles tournament yesterday.

Although Magers was the more adventurous of the two serve-and-volleyers, she was also the one more likely to make errors. Durie preferred to take a more patient and calculated role and the quality of Magers's approaches were not good enough on the day.

Durie held the upper hand throughout, breaking serve twice, for 2-0 and 4-2, only to lose her serve immediately each time, and even when she broke a third time to lead 5-3 she had to save a break point before claiming the set. In the second set, Durie needed just one break, for 4-3, to seal victory.

Durie will now meet Kimiko Date, aged 20, a qualifier from Japan.

REBUTLAS: Third round: M Sosa (Yug) by A Corcoran (USA) 6-4, 6-1; G Sabatini (Arg) by T. Panatta (ITA) 6-3, 6-1; A Sanchez-Vizcaino (Sp) by P. Parmentier (FRA) 6-1, 6-3; M. Sorensen (Den) by J. H. L. Taylor (GB) 6-4, 6-1; L. D. Taylor (GB) by J. H. L. Taylor (GB) 6-4, 6-1; M. Sorensen (Den) by J. H. L. Taylor (GB) 6-4, 6-1.

Medals for the ten-oar women's and lightweight squads, are harder to foresee. The women's lightweight coxed four should make the final but, after their stroke, Kate Brownlow, noted after winning in Lucerne, the appearance of the United States, China, and Australia will make medal winning difficult.

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Test cricket is diminished by Richards's exit



Gower: rival captain

THERE is something chilling about the thought of retirement which has, or will, come to all of us involved in professional sport. It affects each of us in different ways, but for the vast majority of professional cricketers it is a relatively quiet transition from public or semi-public figure to ex-pro in whatever line of business is available.

Few are accorded the plaudits and column inches that have marked the grand exit of Vivian Richards from Test match cricket, the result of a glittering career as an international batsman of the highest quality coming to an end during a game of high drama and excellent, fluctuating cricket at the Oval.

As the home supporters, we can applaud a hard-

earned English victory, while momentarily berating the scriptwriters on high for not letting the main man go out on a real high — I say momentarily because we all know that those scriptwriters are mainly working for our own Ian Botham (and long may he do so). In any case, Viv will have enough memories to sustain him in retirement without having to worry about one little Test match that did not quite go to plan.

Some of those memories are the ones that sometimes gently haunt me. Although I have not had to field through the large part of his 8,540 Test runs, I have certainly seen a few of them from close quarters, notably his quickfire destruction of my

David Gower, the former England captain, argues that statistics will never do justice to the batting skills of Vivian Richards, who retired from Test cricket this week

bowling attack in Antigua that set up West Indies' final victory of the 1986 series. That innings added another record to his collection — the fastest Test century — and proved that, in Antigua at least, he has his own pre-eminent script-writing team. On that occasion the ground simply was not big enough, and at times I was convinced that he was determined to hit the ball out of St John's as well, no matter how bowled at what-ever pace.

He also destroyed us and won a game virtually single-handedly in 1984 at Old Trafford, scene of the first one-day international of that series, where he blasted more runs off his own bat than we mustered between us, 189 compared to our 168. Without him we could have won by 85!

Every opponent in the world will have felt the power of his batting, and let us face it, he is not exactly a seven-stone weakling. What we are talking about is a very

fine human specimen gifted with all the right muscles and the co-ordination to use them more effectively.

However, whatever talents God bestows on you, you still need the power to drive your Bentley Continental parked in the drive and no fuel in the tank.

In Viv's case his fuel has been pride; pride as a batsman first against any bowler who dares to oppose him, and also pride as a black man proving that race and skin colour count for nothing in terms of genuine sporting competition.

In the course of it all, that pride has let him down on occasion too, and along with those many other happy

memories, people will recall other incidents, such as his confrontation in the press box during play in the Antigua Test last year. A captain's first duty is to lead his team on the field and put aside any personal squabbles until a better and more diplomatic moment. Not, of course, that it made any difference to his team's victory on that occasion.

But we all have our failings, so we will all happily reflect on the great pleasure he brought to cricket lovers the world over, as we finger through all those old magazines and annuals full of photographs of the great man destroying yet another hapless attack.

It is interesting to ponder as these great men leave the

stage, Richards this year. Had he last, how the game moves eternally on, waiting for the next "king" to emerge for others to watch and emulate, though God help any mere mortal trying to emulate Viv's technique.

Furthermore, note how the game changes over the years. When Bradman came to his last Test innings, curiously enough also at the Oval, he needed four to average 100 in Test cricket. With his runs at the Oval, Viv made sure he maintained an average of over 50, yet I cannot believe that the great Don was twice as good a batsman as I. V. A. Richards. Statistics blind us all — let us keep our eyes open and appreciate what talents are put before us.

Worcestershire are to replace Neale as captain

Surrey fall foul of Botham at his most irrepressible

By JACK BAILEY

WORCESTER (first day of three: Surrey won toss): Worcestershire with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 48 runs behind Surrey

SOME said Surrey must have celebrated their entry into the NatWest Trophy final too well; others that they clearly had not celebrated at all. What is certain, is that for a side running fourth in the championship with games in hand, they were a surprisingly poor match for Botham and Illingworth on a good New Road batting surface.

A presentable start was followed by a fall from grace in mid-afternoon when 50 balls saw them lurch from 123 for three to 142 for eight, the irrepressible Botham snaffling three of the five wickets to fall during this period and finishing with five for 67.

Being bowled out for 100 runs fewer than they should have been was one thing for Surrey. Running up against the acting captain, Curtis, in form and against Hick with a lot to prove and ideal conditions in which to prove it, was the sort of bad luck Surrey

did not need. These two have put on 122, both reaching their half-centuries, identically, from 88 balls with eight fours.

To be fair to Surrey, Botham was at his best. Once he had been astutely switched by Curtis to the New Road end and the away swinger went with a vengeance and the arm came over fast as the old zip was there.

Bicknell played well before becoming a victim of Lampitt and the first of D'Oliveira's four catches and the first wicket had put on 59 runs. Stewart holed out to cover off Dille, but at 91 for two Surrey were comfortable enough. Even when Ali Khan was caught at slip off Botham, after batting through 35 overs for his 30, no loud alarms were sounded. But now Illingworth took over from Botham who changed ends and the slide was on.

Indeed, had not Greig been dropped when eight by Rhodes standing back to Botham, the end would have been even swifter. As it was, the Surrey captain's undefeated 38 gave Surrey's total

the semblance of respectability; although once Curtis and Hick got going there was not very much to cling to.

As sure as eggs are eggs, Curtis will take over the reins of captaincy from Phil Neale who will, it was announced yesterday, relinquish them at the end of this season. Neale was clearly disappointed that he would not be doing the job for another year after ten seasons in the driving seat — and extremely successful seasons at that. Since he took over in 1982, Worcestershire have won two county championships, two Sunday league titles and, this year, the Benson and Hedges Cup.

However, Neale intends to play out the remaining two years of his contract and has pledged his wholehearted support for his successor. "I accept that the club sees this as the right time for a change," he said. "I shall be happy to help the new captain in any way I can." Worcestershire clearly see the appointment of Kevin Lyons as coach and the departure of Botham for Durham as a watershed in the club's affairs.



Day to remember: Benson hits confidently to leg at Bournemouth on his way to his first championship century

Spinners suffer Gooch's pride

By IVO TENNANT

COLCHESTER (first day of three: Essex won toss): Essex have scored 403 for eight wickets against Northamptonshire

IT HAS been Graham Gooch's week. Far from envying after his successes against West Indies, the England captain made his highest score of the season, 173, against a Northamptonshire batsman out in the first seven overs. That was a measure of how good his innings was.

How many individuals who had achieved what Gooch did this week would have made as many as this? The pride that he takes in his own performance and in his county was to the fore. He and Hussain, whose innings of 141 was also his best this season, added 287 in 80 overs, not far short of an Essex record for the fourth wicket.

All this after Capel had run amok. Evin the way he bowled with the new ball, it was hard to believe he could have been dropped by Northamptonshire only a week ago. Stephenson was taken at the wicket playing indecisively. Prichard and Salim wily followed.

Prichard, left arm which plucked out the off stump without seeming to cut back and, in the same over, Salim received a ball which turned him round and ended up at gully. In nine balls, Capel had three wickets. There was some help in the pitch and no one could have made better use of it.

So Gooch was vigilant. He saw off Capel, Baptiste and Curran before batting with consummate skill against the spinners, of whom Northamptonshire had three. If you count Bailey, it was four. No-body plays spin better than Gooch. Ted Dexter regards him as the finest player of slow bowling he has seen, and there cannot be higher praise.

When he reached his half-century by lofting Williams for six over long-on, Gooch signalled that it was time for a different approach. Shifting his weight from one foot to the other, he bowed without blemish his three slow and ten. One shot was squeezed over slip to third man but even that could hardly go down as a chance.

During the day, Lamb departed for an urgent visit to the dentist. When he returned, little had changed. Needless to say, a crowd of some 4,000 based in it, all as if to bely the delegate at a Test and County Cricket Board meeting the previous day who said that there was to be no county cricket any more.

Gooch faced 243 balls, striking 21 fours and two sixes before Roberts had him caught at long-off. Hussain, who kept pace with him, finished ten runs short of 1,000 for the season. There was a savagery about his strokeplay which brought him 18 fours, a six and, conceivably, a winter at the World Cup.

A fraught few days for Moyes

MINOR COUNTIES CRICKET
By MICHAEL AUSTIN

CUMBERLAND, a transformed team this season, face an anxious wait before knowing whether they will become the Minor Counties eastern division champions ahead of Staffordshire and Durham.

Staffordshire must beat Hertfordshire at Hertford in a match starting next Tuesday to overcome Cumberland. Durham would also lose their place at the top if Durham defeat both Norfolk and Suffolk next week.

John Moyes, the Cumberland captain, said: "Staffordshire are the major threat to us but I'm also concerned about Durham. Earlier this season, they experimented with players in preparation for first-class status next summer. But they have called upon a settled team successfully in the past two or three games."

After failing to win a championship match in either of the two previous seasons, Cumberland have achieved three victories this summer. Steven Sharp, Chris Stockdale and Simon Dutton have performed well with the bat; David Makinson and Bernard Reid have bowled well and two spinners, Malcolm Woods and Richard Elwood have played important roles.

Dressed without a win in their first six games, have rallied with successive victories over Cornwall and Wiltshire to strengthen their once remote chances of qualifying for the NatWest Trophy next season.

Barry Lewis, the new captain who is in his 21st year with Dorset, attributed the success partly to Jamie Duke, aged 19, a seam bowler, and Sean Walbridge, aged 20, a slow left-arm player for Dorchester. Lewis said: "Sean took nine wickets in his debut match against Cornwall and has an excellent temperament. We have needed support in the bowling department because Julian Shackleton has been suffering from torn ankle tendons."

Wales have added a fraternal distinction to their brief history with the appearance of two brothers, Jonathan and Adrian Griffiths, in the same team for the first time.

Jonathan, aged 26, the St Helens' rugby league stand-off and former Wales rugby union player, plays at club level for Hendy, who are led by Adrian, his elder brother.

Lancashire break free with the aid of missed catches

By RICHARD STREETON

DERBY (first day of three: Lancashire won toss): Derbyshire with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 331 runs behind Lancashire

RECENT trials and tribulations on and off the field were reflected by an uneven batting display by Lancashire yesterday. In the end, though, Graham Lloyd, with a confident 85, ensured that initial setbacks were overcome and maximum batting points secured. Derbyshire were left eight overs to bat and lost Barnett, who edged a ball from DeFreitas into his stumps.

These two teams are not yet completely out of the championship race, with Derbyshire in fifth place and Lancashire sixth, three points behind them. It is not going to be straightforward for them, though, to get a result here on a closely shaded, slow pitch.

Derbyshire bowled tidily early on but the bowlers suffered

as Lancashire increased the tempo near the end of their innings. Derbyshire dropped two important slip catches and certainly missed the sharp cutting edge that the injured Devon Malcolm might have provided.

Malcolm's stand-in was Richard Sladdin, a slow left-arm spinner with Yorkshire origins. In his fourth first-class match, Sladdin, who is aged 22, bowled with good flight and control and finished with three wickets.

Lloyd, a modest start to the season left behind him in recent weeks, drove and pulled nine positive fours but was fortunate when six to survive a chance to second slip against Mortensen.

Watkinson and DeFreitas were his chief helpers as Lancashire gradually scored with increasing freedom.

Mendis was forced to show more restraint than usual as he held the early part of the innings together. He had been in for some 56 overs when he edged a slip catch at 163 after Mortensen

got a ball to bounce more than most. Fowler was among the Lancashire injured absentees and Speak shared a useful first wicket stand before Base had him leg-before as he stretched forward.

Neither Atherton nor Fairbrother were completely fit. Atherton, who is expected to enter hospital next weekend for his back operation, soon lifted a catch to extra cover.

Fairbrother, who has had treatment for a hamstring niggle, was missed the slips when five against Cork. He hit six sparkling fours before he was caught behind trying to cut.

Watkinson helped Lloyd to add 54 for the fifth wicket before he gave extra cover a catch. DeFreitas shared a stand of 69 for the sixth and was then brilliantly stumped on the leg side by Krikken, who kept well. Heeg hit freely before Lancashire declared when Lloyd was stumped as he moved out against Sladdin.

Smith to miss Hampshire's NatWest Trophy final

By GEOFFREY WHEELER

CHRIS Smith, Hampshire's former England opening batsman, announced his immediate retirement from the first-class game yesterday and will miss the NatWest Trophy final with Surrey at Lord's on September 7. He will not even be in the country at the time, for he flies to Perth next week to become marketing manager of the Western Australia Cricket Association.

Smith, aged 32, said: "It's a wrench but I had no real alternative. I was offered one of the top jobs in Australian cricket and if I did not go now I could lose it." He scored more than 15,000 runs for the county at an average of 46.

Hampshire had a bad day in the field at Bournemouth where, having taken six Lancashire wickets for 175, their bowlers took a hammering from Justin Benson and Phillip Whitecase, who both made their maiden championship centuries in an unbroken partnership of 219 for the seventh wicket, a Leicestershire record. Benson was 133 and Whitecase 114 when the declaration came at 394 for six.

It was a day of big partnerships. Moxon and Metcalfe launched Yorkshire towards a total of 354 for five against Glamorgan at Headingley by putting on 156 before Moxon was out for 80. Metcalfe reached

123 from 251 balls, with two sixes and 13 fours, before he was third out at 277.

Nottinghamshire's championship pretensions were dealt a further blow at Trent Bridge by the Somerset fifth-wicket pair of Richard Harden and Neil Burns, who added 178. Jimmy Cook made the 20 runs he needed to become the first batsman to 2,000 for the third successive season but the Somerset innings was in the balance at 149 for four before Harden and Burns took control. Harden hit three sixes and nine fours in 101 made in 177 minutes while Burns is 57 not out.

The Australian Under-19 team, having already won both one-day internationals, is making all the running against its English counterparts at Leicester in the first of three four-day games. With the captain, Damien Martyn, contributing a masterly 179, including 34 boundaries, they scored 433 for six on the opening day.



Smith: off to Australia

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Hampshire: First Innings

Edwards (11, 10, 3, 7)	11
Total (5 wickets)	348
Score after 100 overs: 323-4	
100 Swallow, H R J Turner, D A Greaves, J C Hall, R B	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-54, 2-85, 3-140, 4-140, 5-323	

SURREY: First Innings

Edwards (11, 10, 3, 7)	11
Total (5 wickets)	348
Score after 100 overs: 323-4	
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FALL OF WICKETS: 1-54, 2-85, 3-140, 4-140, 5-323	

Notts v Somerset

TRENT BRIDGE (first day of three: Somerset won toss): Somerset have scored 349 for five wickets in their first innings

SOMERSET: First Innings

G D Jones, R A Smith, D J Gower, M C J Nicholas (Capt), A N Ayres (Wicket), G A	
Edwards (11, 10, 3, 7)	11
Total (5 wickets)	348
Score after 100 overs: 323-4	
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FALL OF WICKETS: 1-54, 2-85, 3-140, 4-140, 5-323	

Worce v Surrey

WORCESTER (first day of three: Surrey won toss): Worcestershire, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 48 runs behind Surrey

SURREY: First Innings

D J Gower, R A Smith, D J Gower, M C J Nicholas (Capt), A N Ayres (Wicket), G A	
Edwards (11, 10, 3, 7)	11
Total (5 wickets)	348
Score after 100 overs: 323-4	
100 Swallow, H R J Turner, D A Greaves, J C Hall, R B	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-54, 2-85, 3-140, 4-140, 5-323	

Derbyshire v Lancashire

DERBY (first day of three: Lancashire won toss): Derbyshire with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 331 runs behind Lancashire

LANCASHIRE: First Innings

G D Jones, R A Smith, D J Gower, M C J Nicholas (Capt), A N Ayres (Wicket), G A	
Edwards (11, 10, 3, 7)	11
Total (5 wickets)	348
Score after 100 overs: 323-4	
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FALL OF WICKETS: 1-54, 2-85, 3-140, 4-140, 5-323	

Derbyshire: First Innings

G D Jones, R A Smith, D J Gower, M C J Nicholas (Capt), A N Ayres (Wicket), G A	
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Derbyshire: First Innings

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Leicestershire v Glamorgan

LEICESTERSHIRE (first day of three: Leicestershire won toss): Leicestershire have scored 354 for five wickets in their first innings

GLAMORGAN: First Innings

G D Jones, R A Smith, D J Gower, M C J Nicholas (Capt), A N Ayres (Wicket), G A	
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Leicestershire: First Innings

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Yorks v Glamorgan

HEADINGLEY (first day of three: Yorkshire won toss): Yorkshire have scored 354 for five wickets in their first innings

GLAMORGAN: First Innings

G D Jones, R A Smith, D J Gower, M C J Nicholas (Capt), A N Ayres (Wicket), G A	
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Worcestershire v Surrey

WORCESTER (first day of three: Surrey won toss): Worcestershire, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 48 runs behind Surrey

SURREY: First Innings

G D Jones, R A Smith, D J Gower, M C J Nicholas (Capt), A N Ayres (Wicket), G A	
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Worcestershire: First Innings

G D Jones, R A Smith, D J Gower, M C J Nicholas (Capt), A N Ayres (Wicket), G A	
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The market value of English players soars again

Steven joins the ranks of the £5 million club

By CLIVE WHITE

THE international market value of English players, notably midfield ones, has continued to soar. Trevor Steven yesterday followed the road to the continent down which Paul Gascoigne and David Platt have recently travelled when he jumped at the chance of joining Middlesbrough, the French champions, in a £5 million deal which dramatically caught the deadline for European competition.

Steven also becomes the member of an exclusive club of which only a handful of players belong but of which England now have three: the £5 million club. On the eve of an historic season in England that promises untold riches for the chosen few, Steven has opted, like his English international colleagues, to become a millionaire overnight.

As he flew into the south of France yesterday to link up with Chris Waddle, another English midfielder player who was purchased three seasons ago for a mere £4.2 million, Bernard Tapie, the French club's millionaire president, extolled the virtues of the 27-year-old player signed from Rangers.

"You're going to see that he's a true modern footballer," Tapie said. "I've been following him for eight matches. It is the task of Raymond Goethals and Tomislav Ivic, the Middlesbrough coaches (who knew nothing of the transfer until they read it in yesterday's newspapers) to mould Steven into a side which will carry off

the European Cup this season. After last season's narrow but bitter disappointment in the final against Red Star Belgrade, failure does not bear thinking about if they wish to retain their positions under Tapie. The Middlesbrough president may not be a bad judge, though, of football talent if the observations of Howard Kendall, the Everton manager, are anything to go by.

Kendall, who bought Steven for a comparative song eight years ago from Burnley, described Steven, as "one of the finest players to grace the English game over the past ten years" and bracketed him with the likes of Ian Rush, Kenny Dalglish and Kevin Sheedy. "So I am not too surprised that he now finds himself a multi-million pound footballer," Kendall said. "He has so many tremendous qualities."

"It was one of the best



Steven: £5 million man

pieces of business I have been involved in when I bought Trevor. Initially, he struggled to come to terms with football at a higher level, but I knew that he would come good; he had far too much quality to fail."

Kendall said that Bob Paisley, the former Liverpool manager, had also been interested in signing Steven earlier in his career, but on the two occasions that Paisley went to watch him, he was withdrawn. Liverpool eventually turned him down because the believed he lacked stamina.

Nowadays, he is viewed as a worker — "a real hard one" according to Waddle — rather than a dribbler. "He really shows when the ball is kept right, like at Rangers on the right, and he has real vision," Waddle said.

Negotiations for Steven appeared to have broken down several weeks ago when Rangers expressed dissatisfaction at Middlesbrough's system of payment for the transfer of the player who has signed a three-year contract with one-year option.

The sale enabled Rangers to strike swiftly for Stuart McCall, the Everton midfielder, who joined them in a £1.4 million transfer after catching the last flight to Edinburgh on Thursday night with seconds to spare. He will play against Heart of Midlothian today.

Team news, page 35
Liverpool challenge, page 35

Gachot's team hoping for Belgian all-clear

THE Jordan-Ford Formula One motor racing team has not given up hope that Bertrand Gachot will drive for them in the Belgian grand prix next weekend.

Gachot will spend the weekend in Brixton prison while the team tries to have him freed in time for the race at Spa Francorchamps. A High Court judge yesterday adjourned the Frenchman's application for bail pending appeal against the assault conviction and 18-month

prison sentence he received on Thursday for spraying tear gas in the face of a London taxi driver. Mr Justice May also adjourned, until probably Tuesday, Gachot's application for leave to appeal against conviction and sentence.

Ian Phillips, the Jordan team's commercial manager, said: "Tuesday is not too late. Official practice starts on Friday." The sport's governing body, Fisa, must have the names of competitors by 6pm on Thursday.

ITF bans Seles from Olympics

MONICA Seles has been banned from next year's Olympic Games because she failed to play in the Federation Cup in Nottingham. The International Tennis Federation (ITF) reacted firmly yesterday to the world No. 1's controversial withdrawal from the Cup, imposing the ban and also a £1,250 fine on the Yugoslav Tennis Association, which nominated Seles in its team for Nottingham.

Seles pulled out 36 hours before the event, claiming she had a skin injury, even though she was fit enough to play in an exhibition event in the United States. ITF officials later gave her time to produce a medical certificate explaining her Nottingham absence.

The ITF said in a statement yesterday: "The committee of management of the ITF concluded that Ms Seles's decision to compete in an exhibition event, while at the same time withdrawing from the Federation Cup on medical grounds, was not justified by the medical documents submitted by her representatives."

"The committee have informed Ms Seles, with regret, that she is therefore not eligible for nomination to the Olympic Games in 1992."



Water hazard: Chapman prepares to pitch on the green at the 10th yesterday

Russell and Hussain worthy of returns

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

WHEN the contentious places in England's team for the Test match with Sri Lanka, starting next Thursday, were debated by the selectors last night, it might have been a case of simply lining up all the usual suspects. High on the agenda, for instance, were the emotive issues of whether Botham should retain his place and whether Hick, Lamb and perhaps even Gower should regain theirs.

It will be a surprise if the answer, to the first question, is not yes and, to the second, no in all three cases. It will also, however, be a shame if discussion was dominated by these glamorous names, for seldom have the selectors had such a chance to consider one or two youngsters without fear

that the occasion and the opposition would overwhelm them.

Sri Lanka have regressed in the past few years and their performances against some under-strength county teams have been little short of pitiful. This might normally have been enough to extinguish public interest in the one-off Test at Lord's but, at the moment, we are not living in normal times.

The euphoria resulting from victory over West Indies at the Oval will to some extent filter into this match in terms of morale support. It will also have a bearing on the selectors, who will not be anxious to tamper with their winning team, no matter that it was announced as a side for a specific mission.

If one change can be assumed it is surely the return of

Russell as wicketkeeper. Stewart let nobody down at the Oval and the gamble might, in fact, be seen as a selectorial triumph. Collecting on one long shot, though, does not often indicate placing the cash on the same horse in a different field, and so it is with Stewart.

He is a pear certainty to the need for surgery on his back, and filling it with Stewart would be a reward for his efforts at the Oval.

The vacancy is ready made, Atherton having surrendered to the need for surgery on his back, and filling it with Stewart would be a reward for his efforts at the Oval.

More appropriate to the affairs at hand, however, might be the inclusion of Hussain, who has come

through turbulent times since his senior tour to the Caribbean last year and is now back at his best. He made another century yesterday for Essex, fittingly in partnership with his captain and mentor, Gooch.

There will be a temptation to bring back Hick, in the hope that he makes runs when Ambrose is out of sight. Sadly, he is not yet out of mind and Hick's continued failures against seam bowling indicate a chronic technical disorder.

Lamb can only be reinstated if the selectors are desperate to take him on the winter tour, which they ought not to be, and whereas recalling Gower at the Oval would have been pragmatic, here it would simply be romantic, something to which neither Gooch nor Micky Stewart is prone.

Reeve deserves a Test

match, after an outstanding all-round season for Warwickshire, but Botham had such a beneficial impact last week that he is entitled to continue, this time batting one place higher, so long as it is established that he is available for the entire winter.

The four main bowlers must remain but as Pringle's capabilities are familiar, it would be sensible to include a promising young bowler in the 12. If an extra seam bowler is thought desirable it should be Manton or Watkins; a second spin bowler might either be Salisbury or Glamorgan's gifted Robert Croft.

My 12 would be: Gooch, Marsh, Smith, Hussain, Ramprakash, Botham, Lewis, Russell, DeFreitas, Lawrence, Tufnell, Croft.

Five for Botham: page 34

Relaxed Maradona looking a million dollars

THIS week, this column brings you news from the place where no journalists are allowed: Diego's bunker in Buenos Aires. Maradona is in the throes of trying to rebuild his life, having traversed a sea of sorrows. He looks, I am told, "sensational". He has lost weight and appears years younger. He is showing a relaxed and affable face to the few people he sees, and after all his troubles, he is very lovey-dovey with his long-suffering wife. He is living very much out of the world — for example, he had not heard that Ossie Ardiles, another Argentinian international, had been made manager of Newcastle United.

He has been treated for his addiction to cocaine, and plans to continue psychological treatment for a long time yet. He has talked a great deal about his involvement with drugs, and is desperately eager for rehabilitation — in particular, for public rehabilitation.

SIMON BARNES
ON SATURDAY

"I want to be very open about how I got into drugs. In a very serious way," he said.

This all comes from Mike Chrisman, associate producer of Thames TV's *This Week*, who visited Diego with a view to making a news programme. But alas, it is unlikely to be made: Diego's handlers decided that they wanted \$2 million for access. Is it a wonder that superstars go mad?

Tyson's troubles

Talking of which, Mike Tyson gets into deeper trouble this week. Already being sued for \$100 million by a former Miss Black America, and accused by a Miss Black America contestant of rape, Tyson is now being sued for a further \$21 million by the man who runs the pageant, because he

allegedly made "lewd and perverted remarks" to 11 of the 23 Miss Black America contestants. J. Morris Anderson, owner of the Miss Black America Pageant, has spoken about "Tyson's history as a serial buttock fondler of black women and a perpetrator of lewd and disrespectful acts against black women of the most vulgar type". This statement could be rewritten in the interests of clarity. And one cannot help but feel that to organise something called a Miss Black America Pageant is also a lewd and disrespectful act.

When in Rome?

This is big-name week in this column, all right: onward to Lazio. To my delight, I hear that the Italian really do pronounce this *Gah-tzah*. His transfer to Lazio was largely the work of one man, who tied himself into knots in his determination to bring Paul Gascoigne to Rome. This was the

Lazio president, Gianmarco Calleri. Now it seems that Calleri has decided to sell out, in favour of a man named Sergio Cragnotto. The story was broken in one Roman newspaper, and resoundingly denied in another, but the consensus in Rome is that Calleri will sell out by February... six months before the likely arrival of the man he had set his heart on. *Gah-tzah* could end up going to a club where nobody wants him.

Strong claims

One more big name, or, at least, a pretty big chap. Remember Geoff Capes, the strongest man in the universe, and former British international shot putter? He turned professional, and has been making money in gymnasium events like strongman competitions and pantomimes. But he is likely to take up his amateur status again — these things are fluid and pretty well irrelevant these days, after all

— and will begin competing domestically, with a long-term aim of returning to international competition and putting the shot at the Olympics next year. The event is in pretty poor shape in this country, and Capes's ten-year record of 21.68 metres still stands. Capes has been going to a lot of athletics meetings, because his 17-year-old daughter, Emma, is now shot putter. It is unlikely that Capes could throw as far as he used to, but staminate in that event have fallen all over the world since people got serious about drugs testing... will be 42 next Friday, but is still strong, fit and eager.

The Melbourne Cup, the biggest horse-racing event in Australia, could have two very strong entries from the Soviet Union when the race is run on November 5. They are called Telgar and Formastat; they have both been working stylishly since their arrival in Australia ten weeks ago, and

have each won convincingly on their only outing. "I wasn't sure what to expect," their trainer, Brian Ralph, said. "But this is tremendous."

The gutter gallop

A new method of training, one certain to impress, has been revealed in an American-based triathlon magazine. Try kebab-running, they said. This means you run along the road with one foot on the pavement, and the other in the gutter. Then you turn round and come back the other way. Needless to say, people took this up in their droves. Later the magazine admitted that this was a hoax. Ah well. As a famous person, one who never got round to doing the triathlon, once remarked, we are all of us in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars.

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